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The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Amman, 1-7 February 1990

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Vol: 1 No: 3

No longer
viable

The threat of Soviet
Jews



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الحرية

Jordan, Syria sign co-operation agreements

Badran, Zoubi warn against Jewish emigration

AMMAN (Star) - Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi, left, Amman Tuesday after leading Syria's delegation to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee which he co-chaired with Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Talking to reporters at the airport prior to his departure, Mr Zoubi expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the two-day meetings, saying that the Joint Committee has adopted a number of decisions which would strengthen and promote the existing co-operation between the two countries.

The committee said in a statement which it issued at the end of the meetings that the two sides had signed agreements for co-operation in the economic, trade, transport, expertise exchange and agricultural fields.

Mr Zoubi welcomed efforts towards convening an Arab summit that would address any issues of concern to the Arab world whether economic, or a political.

Responding to a question about reconciliation efforts between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr Zoubi said Syria welcomes any PLO delegation to visit it. He said the Palestinian cause is an Arab cause, in the first place, and any efforts towards solving the Palestinian problem should fall within the framework of joint Arab action.

He said that current PLO negotiations with other parties will not be fruitful. "The position of the Israeli enemy and its statements about its intention to expand contradict any real desire that Israel say it might have for achieving peace. Palestinian con-

tacts with other parties will not lead to tangible results," he said.

Prime Minister Badran said Jordan still calls for convening an International peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

He said Jordan has continued its consultations with all Arab countries for achieving Arab solidarity and agreeing on a joint Arab action in the face of current challenges confronting the Arab Nation. He said Jordan made contacts on this subject with Syria, Egypt and Iraq and will continue these consultations in the future.

Mr Zoubi called for a unified Arab stand against the Soviet Jews emigration to Palestine saying that Arab countries should apply all kinds of pressure to end emigration from any country to Palestine.

He described as positive the recent Soviet statements on the issue and said that the Soviet Union warned against political exploitation of Soviet Jews emigrants by Israel.

Prime Minister Badran told reporters that the Soviet Jews emigration to Palestine obstructs any efforts for achieving peace in the Middle East. He said the influx of more Jews to Palestine would result in expelling more Palestinians from their lands because the new immigrants would settle in their homes.

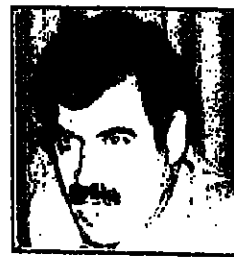
Mr Badran said that even though the negative consequences of Soviet Jews emigration to Palestine would affect Jordan the most, the issue should be dealt with at a national level and through the United Nations.

Syrian Interior Minister to visit Amman to discuss border problems, detainees

Amman (Star) - The Syrian Minister of Interior is due in Amman this month on an official visit at the invitation of Mr Salim Masada, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior.

The two ministers will discuss how to facilitate travel procedures for citizens of both countries across their borders, detainees from each country in the other and the adoption of joint measures to combat smuggling.

The Syrian Minister's visit comes after a visit by Syrian Prime Minister Mr Mahmoud Al Zoubi to Jordan during which he co-chaired the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.



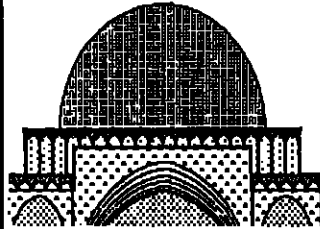
Mohammed Ghabash



Badran and Zoubi sign the minutes of the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban



● All signs indicate that the 14-member Democratic bloc has been dismantled. Contacts are underway to set up new grouping that would include deputies Salim Al-Zoubi, Hussein Mjalli and Dr Hussein Al-Shiyyab who are members of the Democratic bloc. It is said that deputy Zoukan Al-Hindawi will be joining the new grouping.

● During Sunday's session of the House which lasted until 1 am, some deputies and ministers felt tired and succumbed to sleep.

Deputy Leith Shbeilat borrowed a camera from one of the photojournalists and took snaps of the deputies who were asleep. Shbeilat's behaviour seemed repulsive to Speaker Arar who sent him a note asking him to stop taking pictures.

● The call by the head of the Public Liberties and Citizen's Rights committee to prevent journalists from attending the Parliament's sessions disturbed many deputies and all journalists. It seemed odd that such a call would come from the head of the Public Liberties committee.

● The General Secretariat of the Parliament discovered a constitutional breach in the Finance Committee's report on the budget which was read by Dr Abdullah Al-Akailah.

● Speaker Arar silenced Deputy Ahmad Auwidi Al-Abbadi when he sharply attacked Dr Dawoud Hanania, former president of The National Medical Institution and Mr Ali Ghannour, former executive officer of Royal Jordanian Airlines. Speaker Arar asked deputy Al-Abbadi to abide by the House regulations which bar attacks on individuals.

On the record

● The Jordanian government sent urgent messages to Arab countries in which it stressed the need for a unified Arab position against the Soviet Jewish emigration and the dangers it poses to peace in the region.

● The Star has learnt that Syrian-Palestinian meetings were held in Amman during the Syrian Prime Minister's visit to Jordan.

Sources said a meeting was held between the Ambassador of Palestine to Jordan Al-Tayyeb Abdul Rahim Mahmoud and the Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Shar'a. They said the outcome of the meeting was promising. As a result, an improvement is expected in Syrian-Palestinian relations and a meeting could be held in the next few weeks between Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

● The Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Shar'a has called for an urgent meeting by officials from Iraq, Syria and Turkey to discuss the stoppage of the flow of Euphrates waters to Syria and Iraq and the damage caused by that action.

The Star has learnt that Jordan will play a role in arranging the meeting and will contact Iraq for forming a delegation.

● The Canadian Embassy in Amman has denied news that a number of Canadian experts working on the Uday Dam were expelled by the Jordanian Government for not complying with the technical standards of the project. The news item appeared on the January 18 issue of the Star.

In a letter which it sent to the paper, the embassy said that "no Canadians have been expelled by the (Jordanian) Government for this or any other person."

ACC summit to discuss influx of Soviet Jews

AMMAN (Star) - The recent developments in Israeli-Soviet relations and the large influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied Arab territories will figure prominently on the agenda of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) summit which will be held in Amman this month, according to the ACC General Secretary Dr Hilmi Nammer.

In an interview with the Star, Dr Nammer said that the ACC summit will also hold intensive talks on the means of hammering out unified policies to deal with new situations in Eastern Europe, and the impact on the region of a unified Western Europe, which will emerge as a new superpower in 1992.

The summit will also discuss the situation in Lebanon, the peace process in the Arab Gulf in light of the new peace initiative proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussain, and the rapprochement between Syria and Egypt, according to Dr Nammer. "We are facing a number of challenges that require the ACC leaders to unify their positions and co-ordinate their political stands," he said.

On the effects of the improvement in relations between Egypt and Syria on the ACC with view to the tense relations between Syria and Iraq, Nammer said, "we realise that relations between Syria and Iraq are sour, but the ACC does not interfere in the internal affairs of its member states." He said it would be hard for Egypt to try to reconcile the two countries, adding that it would take long time before Syrian-Iraqi relations were improved.

Asked about the ACC's position on the proposed unity between the two Yemens, Dr Nammer said the ACC welcomes any efforts towards unity among any Arab states, but the question of accepting South Yemen in the ACC "is a different issue."

"If the unity takes the form of a complete merger, the ACC will not object to having South Yemen as a member. But if it takes other forms then the issue will be a legal one and it will have to be discussed by the council," he said.

On the achievements of the Council during the first year since its establishment, Dr Nammer said the ACC devoted the first year to building its infrastructure, and to finding a common ground of thought among the officials in the four countries.

"Even though the charter of the council stipulates that decisions will be taken by a vote of majority, we wanted all decisions to be adopted unanimously," he said.

Acknowledging that no tangible achievements have been felt by the peoples of the four countries, Dr Nammer said it was only natural that years pass before the council makes any achievements that would reflect on the daily lives of the people.

Economic complementarity, which the council aims to achieve among its member states cannot, solve the economic problems of these countries, he said.

The conditions for having the public feel any progress in the economic situation are non-existent in any of the member states of the ACC," he said, adding that each country has to work indi-

vidually towards providing such conditions.

Dr Nammer said that the council has signed 30 agreements for economic and trade co-operation, but, he added, these agreements cannot be looked at as real achievements.

"They are rather serious efforts aimed at building strong bases from which we can move towards having tangible achievements," he said.

Dr Nammer said that even though the council was basically set up to "achieve the largest extent of solidarity and co-ordination towards achieving economic complementarity," it did not overlook the importance of achieving complete economic and political unity.

The reason for which the Council promoted the idea of achieving closer economic co-operation is that the leaders of the four countries comprising the ACC wanted to take a new

approach that directly relates to their immediate needs and problems. "Economic problems," he said, "constitute the major challenge that face the ACC countries."

Attempts towards Arab unity in the past followed political approaches that neglected immediate needs of the people but responded to their political aspirations. "This is one of the major reasons why they failed," he said.

"The ACC aims at achieving economic complementarity, but we definitely feel that any economic power is a political power," he explained.

Asked about the role the private sector in the ACC countries can play in the process, Dr Nammer said the private sector does not have to be involved in drafting the agreement but will have a role in executing them.

On the subject of co-ordinating among the three existing Arab

groupings, Dr Nammer said that a decision has been taken by the Arab League to create a committee consisting of the general secretaries of three groupings in addition to the general secretary of the Arab League.

He said the existence of various Arab groups does not threaten the Arab League as long as none of them adopt different political strategies.

The only thing that could jeopardise the Arab League is the creation by any of the

groupings of administrative bodies similar to those



Dr. Hilmi Nammer

step, he said, would eliminate the need for the League.

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Marwan Al Qasem: The Arab Order is at stake

Q: His Majesty King Hussein has warned recently against the threat of the large influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied areas. How serious is this threat?

A: We look at it as the most serious development since the first exodus of Jewish emigrants to Palestine even before the inception of the state of Israel, when waves of emigration in the 30s and 40s made the backbone of what later on became the state of Israel. When you have over a million of Soviet Jews looking at the possibility of getting out of the Soviet Union and finding other doors closed in their faces, it means that Israel would be the place that they would go to as an alternative.

The Israelis would definitely want to see a new input in their own society. We have a young society and to make a balance the Israeli society is to continuously depend on the influx of world Jewry into the state of Israel. A continuation of this massive exodus must be attended to or looked at in a more serious manner by those who are concerned about peace and security in this part of the world, namely the five permanent members of the Security Council...this means that the area is heading to a very unpredictable danger that might engulf the whole region and its effects could spread to areas beyond the region.

The American immigration laws has put a quota on certain categories, a Soviet Jew who has no relations in the United States, cannot enter the United States. And if there is a beginning of a rise in anti-Semitism taking place in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union then those people (the emigrants) will end up in Israel. And Israel would like to use them to consolidate its hold on the occupied territories, in the West Bank and in Gaza and possibly in the future in other occupied territories like the Golan Heights or South Lebanon. So the problem has a dimension that goes beyond Palestinian or Jordanian... it is a pan-Arab national challenge that has to be met in a most cohesive and unified Arab position, because it is basically the Arab Order and the Arab world's security that is at stake.

Q: What are the immediate implications of this threat?

A: When you see Mr Shamir in his statements saying that we need the West Bank and Gaza to absorb the new comers, this immediately means that the Israelis are in no way serious about reaching the peaceful settlement that the whole world has been working diligently to arrive at. The basic formula of land for peace will become a hollow formula and not an implementable one because the Israelis will have taken the land and consolidated themselves in Arab lands at the expense of Arab people's rights, mainly the Palestinian rights.

This means if there has to be an acceptance of such massive waves of Jewish emigrants into Israel, it is going to be at the expense of indigenous Palestinians who have been living on their own soil for hundreds of years. There will be a vacuum to make room for incoming (immigrants). This is why it's a problem that

For the head of Jordan's diplomatic body, Foreign Minister Mr Marwan Al Qasem, the current exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories is the most serious development in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The streams of Jewish emigrants, estimated to be around 50,000 this year alone, threatens not only the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza with displacement, but also other parties to the conflict. In an interview with The Star Chief Editor Osama El-Sherif, Mr Al Qasem emphasised the need to educate all Arabs on the seriousness of this new element to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In his view the Arab Order is the final target of this onslaught.

has to be looked at in a more serious manner, it is an issue that has to be looked at very carefully with all its far-reaching effects on the whole Arab Order.

Q: So it is not a far-fetched scenario to see, one day, thousands of Palestinians being actually expelled to Jordan?

A: Some previous statistics show that between 1983 and 1989 over 45,000 Palestinians have left the West Bank through Jordan, most of them did not return to their homes. There are 27,000 people out of the 45,000 who still retain their re-entry permits within a specified number of years. We encourage them very much to make use of this right and go back because this is how they can strengthen the intifada and resist the influx of Jewish immigrants.

Q: It seems that there are two parties that Jordan should address regarding this issue. The first is the Soviet Union and second is the PLO. What are you doing about that?

A: I think it takes more than two parties to address. We, as a government have already summoned (the envoys of) the five permanent members of the Security Council and have indicated to them what this emigration to Israel means for the region as a whole. We have already told the Soviet Union that maybe they should give their Jewish citizens the right to go through Europe and not be hauled from Moscow to Tel Aviv or from Moscow to Nicosia and then hauled to Tel Aviv. Let there be chance for Soviet Jews and European Jews to have alternatives than being packed and sent non-stop to Israel. We told them that this is a sign of concern regarding the peace process which many of them (members of the Security Council) advocate and this is a time that we think is a testing ground for their seriousness.

This is a collective responsibility for the Security Council, the five permanent members and for those who are mainly responsible for peace and security in the world. We have already indicated time and again that the Arab position has been a clear-cut position to arrive at a political settlement based on the binding resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and so far Israel is the country that has



"Jordan cannot speak on behalf of the PLO or the Palestinian people, nor would any other Arab country do that and this is why the embryo of the conflict is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict which became the Arab-Israeli conflict."

been obstructing the chances of peace. Israel is attempting to complicate and infect the atmosphere and that will only produce instability for the region as a whole.

Q: Are you taking this issue to the Arab foreign ministers meeting which will be held soon?

A: We are going to take this issue to the meeting. Jordan is a member of the Committee of Eight, which is a ministerial committee concerned with the support of the intifada. This (the meeting) will be an occasion for Jordan to bring this issue to the attention of the members and it will be an occasion to underline the importance of what is going on at this time. I don't think we have faced a more serious matter since the 1930s. If we are talking about numbers that are already pouring into Israel and via Israel into the occupied territories as has been declared by Shamir, then we are looking at an average of 1000 to 1300 immigrants arriving to Israel weekly. So it is not something that is going to happen, it is something that is already happening. The Israelis have always been masters in trying to create a *de facto* situation. We are to educate ourselves within the Arab world because the danger does not concern the Palestinians or Jordan only but goes way beyond.

Q: Will this topic feature also in the ACC summit to be held in Amman on 16 February 1990?

A: Definitely, this matter is a priority issue and we do hope that after the ACC summit (to be

held) in Amman we will be in a better position to assess the needed measures. We have to encourage people in the occupied territories to be more convinced and more strengthened in their steadfastness against whatever means they will be subjected to in order to evict them from the territories. This is the major battleground in testing the will of the Palestinians in their resistance to overcome this new political onslaught.

Q: But these moves do not seem to have brought the Palestinians anything....

A: The struggle of the Palestinians to regain their rights has taken decades and I think the peace process is starting now and the effect of the Palestinian decisions of the last two years is making its mark in Israeli and American societies. The most important thing that should be realised especially by the Israelis is that no one is going to talk on behalf of anyone; everyone is going to talk for himself.

The Palestinians have already chosen their leadership. This leadership has announced time and again its willingness to arrive at peace through negotiations under the auspices of the international conference to implement the basic rules that were imposed on the parties to the conflict by the Security Council. Those principles stem from the Charter of the United Nations. So the Arab party is abiding by the law.

Q: Everybody is doubting the sincerity of the Israelis, but what about the sincerity of the Americans. The Bush Administration is particular?

A: I really cannot say that I am doubting the American position. I am saying that the Americans are showing interest and they would like to see the promotion of the peace process. But there are so many other items that one has to look at and examine. For example, the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. This has been, since the seventies, a continuous American demand in their dialogue with the Soviet Union; to let Soviet Jews have the freedom of leaving. Later on we see that the United States puts a quota where by less than 30 or 40 thousand people can enter the United States, so the rest will end up in Israel. This is going to be an added element that will complicate the peace process.

Q: In an interview with The Star, former US Ambassador James Aikens said that the new slogan being promoted by Jewish lobbies in America is "The Arabs are the enemy." The Israelis fear that their presence in the area could be threatened after the changes in Eastern Europe and that this is a job for Arab diplomacy to counter... do you agree with him?

A: I think with the developments of recent months many countries and states will be re-assessing their relationships. A country like Israel which has been trying to manipulate a position for itself since the fall of the Shah of Iran, which gave it the chance to sell itself as part of the American global strategy facing the Soviet Union. Now with the developments in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union this could give

Jordan cannot speak on behalf of the PLO or the Palestinian people, nor would any other Arab country do that and this is why the embryo of the conflict is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict which became the Arab-Israeli conflict.

So if you really want to give a

Continued on page 17

1 FEBRUARY 1990

House resumes meetings on Saturday Budget expected to pass with large majority

AMMAN (Star) - The Lower House of Parliament will convene on Saturday to resume its debate on the draft budget for 1990. The House had earlier on Sunday adjourned its meetings after a two-day session during which 53 deputies took the floor to present their views on the budget. The session was adjourned due to the visit of Syrian prime minister to the Kingdom.

Seven more deputies will speak on Saturday's session and Prime Minister Mudar Badran will give his reply to the deputies' demands and observations before the draft budget is put to vote.

Most of the deputies who spoke on last Saturday's and Sunday's sessions endorsed the budget and observers believe that the JD 1.05 billion budget will pass with an overwhelming majority.

Observers at the House noted that many deputies used the session to address their constituents and repeated their electoral platforms.

Many deputies also contradicted themselves by demanding major reductions in expenditure and asking the government to set up projects that would cost millions of dinars.

Their demands ranged from building an airport in the southern Jordanian city of Ma'an to setting up huge industrial projects in various parts of the Kingdom.

The proposed cut in the universities' allocations in the budget by the House Finance Committee was rejected by many deputies who argued that Jordan should provide its citizens with a decent education.

They also opposed the suggested reductions in the Public Security Department (PSD) on the basis that the department cannot properly fulfil its responsibilities of ensuring the security and stability of the country if it suffers cuts in its funds.

There was almost a consensus among deputies for the need for



Deputy Abdullah Al-Akallah reads the report of the Finance Committee which proposed a JD 15 million cut in the draft budget.



Above: Some deputies succumb to sleep during Sunday's session which lasted till 1 am. Right: The cabinet listens to the deputies' remarks.



strengthening the Jordanian Armed Forces and supplying it with necessary arms that would enable it to defend the country against any aggression.

Deputies also called on the government to ensure food security and to see to it that needy citizens benefit from food subsidies.

Many of the deputies stressed the need for giving more attention to the agricultural sector so that the country can achieve self-reliance in its basic food needs. Many deputies demanded that the government refrain from in-

troducing supplements to the budget before getting the approval of the House. They called on the House to reject any budget supplement that is made without its prior endorsement.

Some deputies demanded the merger of certain governmental institutions, and the abolishment of others. They also requested that the budget of certain financially-independent government agencies be subjected to the House supervision, and be included in future budgets.

Many deputies lashed at budget allocations for the Foreign Ministry, demanding that the government merge embassies in "unimportant" states with those of other Arab countries in order to reduce expenditure.

Deputies raised their concern over the increasingly growing rate of unemployment and price hikes and requested the government to set up large industrial projects that would provide work opportunities.

The Kingdom's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its economic readjustment programme came under severe criticism from a number of deputies who demanded that the government reveal the full text of the agreement with the IMF.

Islamist deputies argued that the solution to the country's economic problem lies in applying an economic programme based on Islamic principles.

Other deputies called for the convening of a national conference that would address the economic situation in detail and come up with a comprehensive economic restructuring programme in which all citizens can participate.

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Sunday 4/2/1990	FUHEIS GROUP for Revival of Heritage	Philadelphia Hotel
Monday 5/2/1990	French Oud Player MARK LOOPUYT (in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre)	Philadelphia Hotel
Tuesday 6/2/1990	THE ARAB NAGHAM ORCHESTRA (in cooperation with the Association of Jordanian Musicians)	Philadelphia Hotel
Wednesday 7/2/1990	Pianist and composer PATRICK LAMA	Philadelphia Hotel
Thursday 8/2/1990	Renowned Iraqi Oud Player MUNIR BASHIR	Philadelphia Hotel

All concerts will start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for each concert are for JD 3 a piece. A combination ticket for all six concerts is available at JD 14.500.

Tickets available at: The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026
The French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637009
Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
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1 FEBRUARY 1990

THE STAR 5

Jordan takes the lead in cartoon dubbing

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

CARTOON DUBBING requires an abundant supply of energy and nerves of steel. Producing a 10-minute-long cartoon, for example, takes five hours of hard work by the actors and actresses. What one hears on the television screen are the voices of actors and actresses adapting to the characters they are acting. Sometimes an actor or actress has to mimic the voices of five characters. This is a nerve-wracking work since each caricature has its own pitch and voice tone.

Wafa Qussous, holder of a masters degree in puppetry, has been dubbing cartoons since 1981. "We record cartoon series

in Arabic. First the director gives us the script and assigns each actor or actress his or her part. Then, we watch the cartoon on the recording studio's television. This way each can analyse the type of character he or she has to act out. So, if, as I am currently doing, you have a mean and evil character to dub, you have to adapt your tone and pitch of voice accordingly," she explains.

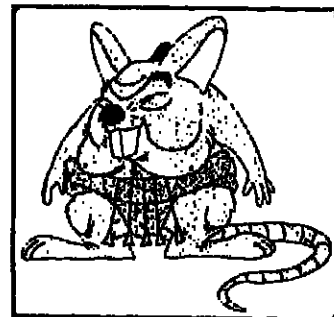
The number of the acting cast varies according to the number of characters in a series. The group is sometimes composed of up to 15 actors and actresses.

Because cartoons usually involve quick action, an actor or actress has to be fully alert. This is a very exhausting process since rehearsals sometimes start

at 2:30 in the afternoon and last till 12 midnight. "But the challenge is worth it. It is highly technical because you have to match your words in Arabic to the movement of a caricature's mouth (which usually speaks in English). You also experiment with your voice and see how many different pitches and variations you can achieve," says Qussous. She asserts that just reading the script is not enough; an actor has to simultaneously concentrate on watching the screen and on acting, employing the same pitch for a character all the way through.

Cartoons usually come in series, some consist of 26 episodes with characters re-occurring in other sequels. In order to remember the tone of voice used for a certain character, Qussous writes out formulas for herself. If the character requires a nasal voice, then she writes this down along with a character study. She also marks down what sort of pitch she used (whether it came from her throat or not).

Cartoons, in Jordan, are bought from all over the world and an English translation of the script is always provided. Problems arise when one sentence in Japanese equals three in Arabic. In order to match the Ar-



abic words to the caricature's lips an actress or actor has to improvise.

Most of the acting group dubbing at the Arab Tele Media Services, are professional actors and actresses and have been dubbing since 1981. They are directed by Musa 'Amar, helped by the studio's sound technician. Both monitor the acting from the control room and hear the Arabic version of the cartoon. Meanwhile, the actors wear earphones listening to the original language while acting. This way, the director and sound technician can monitor the mouth movements of the actors and actresses and correct any mistakes.

Actor Mohammed Hilmi, who has acted in both Egyptian and Jordanian movies and plays, has been dubbing cartoons for the past 10 years in Jordan. Says he, "a person feels that he is going back to his childhood when dubbing. I enjoy this type of work very much, and I have learnt a lot from it." He says that people usually underestimate the efforts put into cartoon dubbing assuming it is an easy job. He and his colleagues sometimes spend 15 minutes on one sentence, until they perfect it. "Our director

sometimes loses his temper, why? Don't ask me," jokes Ameen.

"A person working in this field gains experience in more than one area: in language, in dealing with recording equipment, and in rhetoric," says Musa Amar, who has been directing in Jordan for the past 17 years. For him, a dubber has to be eloquent, extremely patient, and has to have strong nerves, and a high level of concentration.

As a child, Amar was deprived of a lot of things. All these he tries to compensate for through cartoons. In all of his productions there is a distinct message which he thinks is very vital. To help convey the message, a title summarising the plot is given at the beginning of each episode. Also, a short melody with Arabic lyrics is produced to assist in emitting the correct sense.

Amar says that dubbing in Jordan used to be done by recording on magnetic tape - This involved a lot of time and money in addition to the loss of feeling for the characters as actors could not actually see the action. Amar tries to save time by letting the actors watch the cartoon on a normal television screen in the studio. In this manner, the actors can identify with the characters they are dubbing. For him, the ideal situation would be to have a large screen magnifying the caricatures' lip movements.

The studio is already equipped with sound absorbers, ply wood reflectors, and fiber glass walls.

Jordan is acquiring a distinguished place for dubbing in the Middle East. There are three



studios dubbing cartoons and the demand has increased. Accordingly, production rates have grown rapidly. Previously, Lebanon was the number one place for dubbing. This change is attributed to several reasons, including the devaluation of the Jordan dinar. It is now more feasible for Gulf countries to produce cartoons here. In addition to that, according to Adnan 'Awamleh,

general manager of the Arab Tele Media Services, people do not want their children to grow up speaking with accents other than their own. Unlike the Egyptian or Lebanese dialects, the Jordanian dialect is relatively free from any accents.

Yet Jordan is not producing its own cartoons. 'Awamleh discloses that the Arab World cannot



afford to do this because television stations are government institutions and "have neither proper planning, nor specified goals." Also, not all Arabic themes or story-lines are suitable to foreign countries.

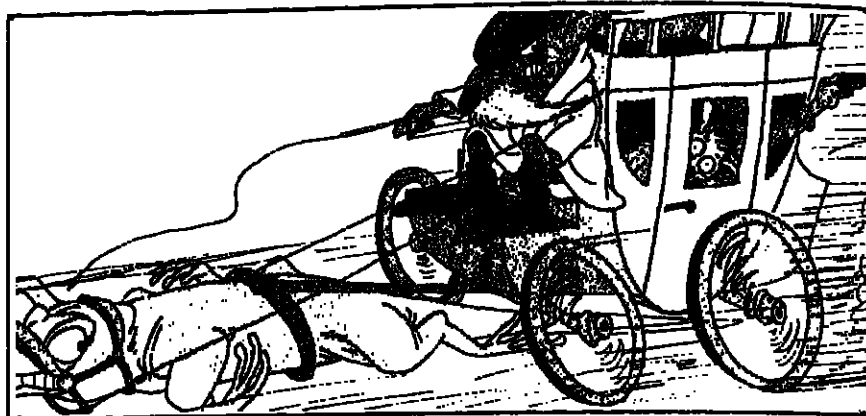
Addis Amar, "a local cartoon would have to carry a message that relates to our traditions and values. Abroad, the preference is for fast action, and mild hitting and beating."

The company now attends annual film festivals in Cannes (the South of France) and Monte Carlo where it shops for film rights. The company's customers are the Arab television stations and it thus tries to find productions that meet their needs.

For religious reasons these stations do not show science fiction, wizard and cartoons dealing with magic. In order not to lose the market the company is forced to concentrate on classics and stories dealing with humanitarian issues.

The price of a cartoon, says 'Awamleh, varies according to the quality and the country selling it. Japan, for instance, produces cartoons in mass production. But the price varies between \$1100 to \$1500 per half an hour. And the cost of dubbing is almost the same.

Some countries have copy right laws where the cartoon may be used for seven to 10 years only. The nature of the rights depends on the terms of the agreement between the company and the producers. The local market, and the home video, according to 'Awamleh abide by no copy right laws. They can copy films and sell them to local stations. "Consequently, a lot of pirating takes place and we do not have any control over it."



The costumes of Intifada

Palestinian identity emerges strongly, to the chagrin of some, in the current London exhibition of Palestinian costumes.

By Maureen Ali
Special to The Star

LONDON - London has not had a show like this since the memorable Nomad and the City exhibition held as part of the Festival of Islam more than 10 years ago. The new Palestinian costume exhibition at the Museum of Mankind is stunning. What's more, it's a timely reminder to visitors of the Palestinian identity.

The exhibition, which is to stay open for a two-year period and may travel abroad, is built up speaking with accents other than their own. Unlike the Egyptian or Lebanese dialects, the Jordanian dialect is relatively free from any accents.

Most of the exhibits date from the late 19th up to the mid-20th century, a time when dresses were lavishly embroidered to reflect the origin and status of the

terials from which costumes were made: cotton, wool and linen, produced in local Palestinian weaving centres, and the more luxurious fabrics such as silk, once imported from Syria.

Different samples, such as the distinctive range of textiles originating from the great weaving centres in Mejdal and Gaza, are included, alongside colourful garments featuring silk, satin and brocade, all of which would have been imported.

From here, the exhibition moves onto a "Wedding" section featuring dresses and trousseau items, ritual garments rich in symbolism. This section includes two figures dressed in contrasting outfits; the rather sombre veiled bride riding to her wedding, and the more flamboyant, newly married woman on her way to the well.

Included in this section are a series of stunning, silver head-dresses, worn after marriage. These comprise dozens of small silver coins stitched onto an embroidered cap and interwoven

a young boy during this important ceremony. This is made from red satin, with the front covered in large silver coins, as a reflection of the status of its wearer.

Thereafter, with the exception of a small section featuring men's dress, the bulk of the exhibition is given over to women's costumes. These are dressed out on models and are arranged according to region: Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jaffa and so on. What Curator Shelagh Weir seeks to emphasise here is continuity and diversity.

In the introduction to her excellent book, Palestinian Costume, she writes: "Several distinctly different styles of dress could and did coexist in each village or region at any one time; some elements of costume did indeed vary regionally, but others were common to several regions and some to the entire country; and although certain costume features had persisted for generations, others had been subject to many changes in fashion."

Thus we see similar styles and patterns emerging in different regions at different points, while subtle changes in cut or colours provide discernible changes from region to region or within the same region.

Out of this profusion of pattern and colour, several garments stand out. These include three jackets from the Bethlehem area, one made from red woolen broadcloth, the others from purple velvet. All three are lavishly embroidered in gold, silver or silk couching and are magnificent examples of their kind.

They contrast sharply with the 19th century coat from Galilee, made from black cotton and embroidered with taffeta patchwork in green, red and yellow.

A favourite of mine, astonishing in its simplicity, is the three-metre long bedouin dress with huge pointed sleeves, made from indigo dyed cotton. It was worn hitched up over a belt. It is one of few remaining examples of its type.

Dominating the exhibition, however, are the many and varied examples of dresses whose chest pieces, side or back panels illustrate the consummate skill



A turn-of-the-century young bride from the Bethlehem area.

of the Palestinian embroidery. Here the colour red predominates interwoven with pinks, yellows and some blue. Most are executed in traditional cross-stitch and feature repetitive patterns using "cypress" trees, indented squares and other geometric motifs. Later, European patterns and even animal motifs were introduced.

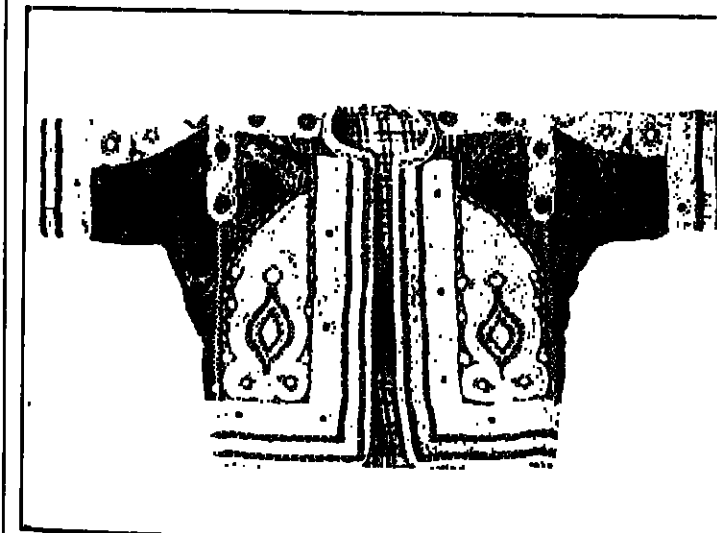
The exhibition is well documented with detailed explanations about changes in styles, materials and fashions. It is spacious and tastefully lit. The layout is designed to reflect the undulating hills and terraces of Palestine. The plinths on which the models are arranged snake gently between rooms, through arched doorways.

On the walls behind, photographs recapture scenes from Palestinian villages and the local landscape. At the end of the second gallery there is a traditional seating arrangement where visitors can rest, consult various

publications or examine reproductions of paintings depicting Palestinian scenes.

Along with the exhibition is a full programme of films and lectures about Palestine in general and embroidery in particular. These are supplemented with embroidery workshops, discussion groups which make provision for participants to handle and analyse certain costumes, and children's events which include drawing time and stories.

It is a full and informative schedule which invites repeat visits. This, plus the magnificence of the costumes themselves, should make the exhibition a major success for the Museum. As one visitor put it to me: "There is such a profusion of colour and patterns, it is quite dazzling to the eye. It is all so fresh and bright, it is one of the most unusual exhibitions I've seen here."



A 1930 women's jacket-velvet with cord couching

wearer. At the same time, the exhibition illustrates how traditional dress has continued to change and evolve even up to the present time. In a contemporary scene, new styles, some highly symbolic of the Palestinian struggle for nationhood, reflect the ongoing tradition of embroidery.

The exhibition opens with a section introducing the main ma-

with beads, chains and talismans. One, dating from 1845, comprises over 1,600 small silver coins stitched on in overlapping rows, with an additional 80 to 90 more valuable coins arranged along the front, back and sides. It is a remarkable piece of engineering.

In a nearby case, executed with similar loving care, is a tiny circumcision waistcoat worn by

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Dia Al Azzawi : art with a strong identity

By Sophia Morolin
Special to The Star

LONDON - Art from the developing world often suffers from a lack of identity but this can be remedied if the artists pay more attention to their surroundings and understand how to communicate with an international audience. Dia Al Azzawi, a longtime resident of London and a committed Arab artist at heart, is one such communicator and an outspoken adherent to the idea of art with identity.

Building contemporary art with a clear identity and message is easier said than done, he maintains. "Take Islamic calligraphy. It is easy enough to put it across to an audience if you are in an Islamic country," he said in an interview.

"But in Europe or the United States, it's quite a different challenge. Over here Islamic calligraphy is little more than inexplicable symbols. How do you make it work for those who see your work? How can you make them understand that it is not mere symbols, but an important component of a different civilisation? This is the difficult part."

Azzawi's work was shown in autumn in a London exhibition entitled Contemporary Art from the Islamic World. More recently he has exhibited in Riyadh and Stockholm.

The artist drew early inspiration from his archaeological studies in Baghdad. "In archaeology you have this fantastic sense of both art and history," he says. In modern Middle Eastern art, Islamic, Sumerian, Assyrian, and Western influences have tended to intermingle.

Azzawi explains why. "In Islam, we don't have a tradition of painting. In Islam, art is very much a part of the architecture, part of everyday living. Making Westerners or foreigners in general understand Islamic art therefore becomes quite an undertaking."

"I am working for an international audience, but I try to keep my cultural identity in all my work," says Azzawi.

Arab artists, for lack of an indigenous tradition of painting, were easily influenced in the 1930s and 1940s by European work. But then the Arab artists began moving away from that influence and moulding their

own identity. In the Middle East, particularly in Iraq, the greatest influence was exercised by the painter and sculptor Jawad Selim.

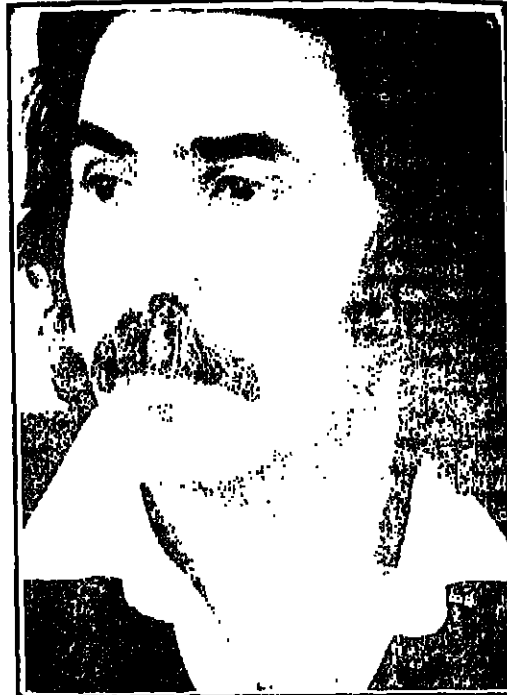
"In Europe, the artists face no such problem," says Azzawi. "European art is international even though there are specific movements, like the German movement or the Italian movement."

In the Third World, "art, culture and poetry all become involved with politics, this is because all these countries have fought for their independence or against the influence of imperialism on their culture."

"You really need to build up your identity. If you are active in Africa or Asia, you cannot do contemporary work which is similar to contemporary work in New York," he says.

In the developing world the problem of an artist wanting to succeed is further compounded by his or her economic difficulties. Most artists in the developing world, for example, have to do something else to survive in art. In order to help art to achieve its true identity, says Azzawi, culture authorities in the

Dia al Azzawi, the successful Arab artist based in London, believes that art from the developing world must bear its identity with pride but it should also be comprehensible to its international audience.



developing countries need to be more forthcoming in providing encouragement, building new museums and promoting purchase and collection of art.

Azzawi is outspoken about some of the collectors. "We often find people who want to buy a painting not because of its quality

but because it suits their living room."

There is a greater need, he says to educate people about art. "The responsibility of the museum in the Third World is so big that the museums can be equated with schools in the role they play in educating people."

'Jordanian Artist 1990'

A melting pot of local art

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to The Star

AMMAN - Exhibitions which combine the work of many artists are by nature difficult shows to stage. The variety of styles, standard, size and colours make the task of doing justice to the work of each artist almost an impossibility. For the viewer the situation is little better. Bombarded with such a range of ideas and techniques it is easy to become confused with the result that good works are sometimes overlooked. Despite these inherent problems the group show of some 25 Jordanian artists at the Spanish Cultural Centre this week nevertheless proves to be an interesting and worthwhile event.

It is to the larger, more strikingly colourful oils that one immediately gravitates, in particular to Jassal Ashour's 'Project No. 1'.

Never content with the traditional rectangular format, Ashour cuts away great chunks of his canvas, and bends and curves his surfaces to create a compelling three dimensional effect. At first his work seems to be totally abstract, a mass of writhing forms whose impatience is softened by almost delicate pinks, lilacs and purples.

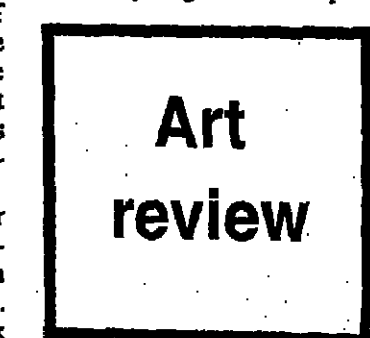
Then suddenly, from the top of this mass one sees an arm struggling to emerge and the whole painting is transformed into a figurative piece with political and emotional overtones.

Other pieces that subtly change from abstractions to, this time, landscapes are works by Princess Wijdan, which capture the searing heat and vast empty space of the hostile desert environment, and by Ufemia Rizk. In contrast to Princess Wijdan's rough and striated texture, the surface of Rizk's painting flows with a sensuous smoothness. As the deep turquoises of the foreground melt into paler blues of the background, so a landscape is created. The barely visible mountain and deep valleys are lit with a ray of light that breaks through an endless sky of luminous blue.

While these works are wider views of the Jordanian landscape, the abstract work by Suha Shoman focuses on its details. In bold brushstrokes of black streaked with rich oranges she captures with a rigorous austerity the colours and texture of the rock from which Petra is carved and the dramatic contrasts of the ancient city's light and shadow.

The exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre is in fact marked by the presence of many excellent smaller abstract pieces. Included in this category is the work of Nawal Abdullah and Nabila Hilmi. As both of these artists will be exhibiting their work more extensively next week at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Gallery, it would be pertinent to leave a description and analysis of their work for a later more comprehensive review. The two abstract pieces submitted

by Ghada Dahdahieh show her to be evolving as an artist of great confidence and direction. Although extremely spontaneous, Dahdahieh's abstracts are in fact carefully thought out, her compositions balanced and controlled. Patches of dark turbulent colours are offset with areas of light touched geometry and together they are contained and framed by rough lines of deepest



charcoal. The two abstracts by Khalid Khreiss on the other hand show him to be continuing in his own elusive rather esoteric style that defies easy definition. Like old crumbling walls his paintings are touched with mysterious graffiti, inscrutable hieroglyphs that tempt and intrigue.

Finally in this group are the paintings by Abdel Raouf Shamoun. While maintaining the same format and rich colours of his earlier more figurative work, Shamoun has developed a totally abstract approach. In place of his figures are kaleidoscopic masses of colour which are balanced and calmed by offset squares which Shamoun then

contains with a frame of deep turbulent blue.

An artist just venturing into the field of the abstract is Abdul Nasser Odeh and his initial forays however are as yet not convincing. In direct contrast to his featherlight, spontaneous watercolours of the north Jordanian landscape, these abstracts in acrylics tend to be rather pensive, heavy and unsure. Although patches of more detailed work have some confidence and appeal, there is generally a feeling of indecisiveness about these rather poorly composed works. An artist of some potential, Odeh needs more time to develop his new ideas.

Another artist who is experimenting with a new media is Mukarram Haghandouga who has moved from pastels into acrylics. Again perhaps more time is needed to soften the rather raw colours of her otherwise attractive landscapes. Like Haghandouga, Diana Shamounki has developed her own distinctive style in her portrayals of the Jordanian landscape. A popular artist, Shamounki's compositions nevertheless tend to send the eye scattering over the surface of her paintings, confusing it with a lack of depth and perspective and too much detail.

Yousef Badawi's work on the other hand lacks detail. Sometimes, this is effective, as in his interestingly composed "Children" which fondly captures the different expressions of children being taught. Sometimes howev-

er, this lack of detail is not effective as in his other piece entitled "The Good Life." Too much empty space around the seated male figure in this composition renders it devoid of life and atmosphere.

Interesting figurative work also comes from Jalal Arikat whose impressionistic landscapes are dynamic and excitingly colourful though a little wild and uncontrolled, and from Kamil Kaber. In a clever play of positive versus negative, Kaber gives us in one painting the front and back of the canvas, expressions of joy and anger, of acceptance and resistance.

Among the sculptural works on display are three new works by Laressa Najjar. In local pink and cream striped sandstone, Najjar has finally chiseled out immaculate cubist type faces. The placid, introspective expressions of these heads are vitalised by the angles at which they lean, angles that are dictated by the shape and layers of the colour of the rock itself.

The ancient and classical lines of the pots crafted by Mahmoud Taha are modernised by their enormous size, by the subtle glazes that flow like watercolours, one into another and by the shadowy use of geometric patterns and calligraphy.

The show is completed with works by Rafik Lahham, Yousef Hussein, Hafiz Khassiss, Karam Nimri, Namat Al Nasser, Mahmoud Doublan, Margaret Tadros and Sabahat Rashidan.

Art review

ECONOMY

The Star

Floating interest rates: The timing is wrong!

AMMAN (Star) - The Central Bank of Jordan has circulated a memorandum to all licenced commercial banks and financial houses informing them of Governor Mohammed Said Nabulsi's decision to cancel previous Central Bank directives concerning fixed interest rates charged by banks and financial houses on various categories of credits in Jordanian dinars and giving these institutions the freedom in setting credit interest rates.

The same applied to interest rates on deposits in Jordanian Dinars paid by these institutions.

The Governor requested that banks and licenced financial houses set a price level for interest rate and commissions including maximum and minimum

rates for credit facilities given to resident clients for one, three and more than three year terms.

As for non-resident clients the memorandum approved an increase in interest rates of no less than 2 per cent over rates offered to resident clients.

The new directives considered overdraft account as credit facilities payable within the year.

Interest rates on credits whose terms exceed one year will be reviewed every 3 to 6 months according to published weekly rates.

Interest rates on current overdraft accounts will be subject to monthly revision. The Governor asked all banks and financial houses to set minimum and maximum interest rates paid on deposits (in Jordanian dinars) for saving one-month, 3-month, six-month, nine-month, one-year and more than one-year term deposits.

The memorandum also asked banks and financial houses to set a minimum for deposits accepted on call accounts. The Governor asked licenced banks and financial houses to set interest rate and for credit and deposits at the beginning of every week. These rates will be valid for one week.

These new directives will be effective from Saturday 3 February. As to current financial facilities it will be treated as follows:

The new directives will apply immediately on all facilities extended to current overdraft accounts and credits whose contracts allow the banks to amend interest rates.

As to other credits whose terms exceed one year and are given according to a set rate of interest, the new directives shall be applicable from 1 February 1991.

The new directives will not apply to specialised lending institutions like the Housing Bank's housing loans. They also will not apply to contract sav-

ings and special funds companies.

News Analysis

The decision of the Central Bank (CB) to float interest rates beginning 1 February was received with mixed feelings by observers in the financial sector. While some bankers say the move will encourage public savings and investments, others believe it will result in price hikes. The most affected will be borrowers especially merchants with overdraft current accounts.

The President of the Jordan Banks Association (JBA) Dr Abdallah Al Malki is an opponent of the floating measures. He told The Star that the measures are not in the best interest of the Jordanian economy at this stage. Dr Al Malki added that savings have nothing to do with a full-fledged flotation of interest rates.

In the view of JBA president these measures, which come as a fulfillment of "implicit articles of the agreement (with the International Monetary Fund) will eventually lead to price hikes."

He said while banks will benefit from the new measures, he does not expect a cut-throat competition among Jordanian banks. "There will be space for all banks," he said.

Briefs

● A STUDY is being carried out by the Ministry of Trade and Industry to determine the feasibility of establishing a plant for assembling motor cars in Jordan. The proposed factory will also manufacture spare parts and related equipments. The aim of the study is to create new jobs and find ways of generating hard currency.

● ...also at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, a proposal is being considered to turn export-oriented joint ventures (with non-Jordanian investors) into free zones. Two locations were suggested; the Shidiya region and the Fertiliser Complex in Aqaba.

● THE MINISTRIES of Tourism and Trade and Industry have been asked by the Prime Ministry to help find financiers for the completion of Al Himma hotel. The two government bodies are to offer guarantees to likely investors. The government intends to incorporate Al Himma into a Jordan's so-called medical tourism package.

● A RATE of exchange of JD 1 to 60 Syrian liras has been set by the two central banks in Amman and Damascus. The price applies to all commercial dealings between the two countries and will be effective from 1 February.

Can we do it?

Changing our consumer patterns

AMMAN (Star)-- Changing consumption patterns in Jordan where consumerism is a prominent feature of life is a must for the success of the economic adjustment programme that has been adopted by the government. Unless austerity becomes a permanent way of life rather than a short-term prescription, the success of the programme will be in doubt.

Jordanians have been accustomed to a steady rise in their standard of living during the last decade. It will not be easy for the majority to get used to a different, sometimes difficult, norm of life where many of the luxuries of the past will have to be abandoned.

In one of the statistical surveys, released by the Department of Statistics, about household monthly expenditures and income in 1987, the following can be noted:

A- Overspending

Group 1: Out of 841 households (in the "less than JD 50 income" group), 19 households spent between JD 50 and JD 99 and one household spent between JD 150 and JD 199.

Group 2: Out of 3,203 households (in the JD 50-99 income group), 66 households spent be-

tween JD 100 and JD 149, six households spent between JD 150 and JD 199 and two households spent between JD 200 and JD 299.

Group 3: Out of 4,382 households (in the JD 100-JD149 income group), 51 households spent between JD 150 and JD 199 and six households spent between JD 200 and JD 299.

Group 4: Out of 3,035 households (in the JD 150-199 income group), 21 households spent between JD 200 and JD 299.

Group 5: Out of 2,914 households (in the JD 200-299 income group), six households spent between JD 300 and JD 499 and one household spent over JD 500.

Group 6: Out of 1,727 households (in the JD 300-499 income group), three households spent over JD 500.

Group 7: In this group, 657 households were classified in the "more than JD 500 income" group.

B- Less spending

Group 1: 258 households spent less than JD 50.

Group 2: 83 households spent less than JD 50 and 964 households spent between JD 50 and JD 99.

Group 3: 19 households spent

less than JD 50, 373 households spent between JD 50 and JD 99 and 951 households spent between JD 100 and JD 149.

Group 5: 11 households spent less than JD 50, 179 households spent between JD 50 and JD 99, 557 households spent between JD 100 and JD 149 and 783 households spent between JD 150 and JD 199.

Group 6: Two households spent less than JD 50, 36 households spent between JD 50 and JD 99, 150 households spent between JD 100 and JD 149, 274 households spent between JD 150 and JD 199 and 631 households spent between JD 200 and JD 299.

Group 7: One household spent less than JD 50, five households spent between JD 50 and JD 99, 20 households spent between JD 100 and JD 149, 27 households spent between JD 150 and JD 199, 122 households spent between JD 200 and JD 299 and 252 households spent between JD 300 and JD 499.

Group 7: One household spent less than JD 50, five households spent between JD 50 and JD 99, 20 households spent between JD 100 and JD 149, 27 households spent between JD 150 and JD 199, 122 households spent between JD 200 and JD 299 and 252 households spent between JD 300 and JD 499.

C- Breaking even

Households which broke even were as follows: 821 in G1; 2,871 in G2; 3,278 in G3; 1,671 in G4; 1,377 in G5; 631 in G6; and 230 in G7.

Summary

1- The above statistics show that out of a total of 16,759 households:

A- 182 households (1.1%) were overspenders drawing on their family savings or relying on borrowing.

B- 5,698 households (34%) were less spenders making savings, investments and or deposits, or financing other overspenders.

C- 10,879 households (64.9%) broke even by spending all what they have earned.

2- Had this sample survey (16,759 households) been a representative of a population survey in 1987, we would have come up with the following findings.

A- In 1987, 32,000 households were over spenders. In the Kingdom.

B- In 1987, 985,000 households were less spenders, in the Kingdom.

C- In 1987, 1.88 million households spent all of what they have earned, in the Kingdom.

JCA president calls for a ban on foreign contractors

AMMAN (Star) - President of the Jordan Contractors Associations (JCA) Mr Ali Abu Al Ragheb has called on the government to stop offering tenders to foreign companies and restricting government tenders to local contractors only. Mr Abu Al Ragheb said depriving Jordanian contractors from public works projects would increase unemployment especially since local contractors normally hire Jordanian labour and engineers for these projects.

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3 mos.	8.5/16	8.1/8	15.1/8	7.06	9.5/8
6 mos.	8.3/8	8.3/8	15.1/16	7.18	9.11/16
1 year	8.9/16	8.17/32	14.15/16	7.31	9.1/2

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.5%, 1 month 9%, 2 months 9.125%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 11%.

Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.6755/60	1.4810/20	1.6808/18	142.82/78	1.1877/82	5.6910/40

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Rule-of-thumb

Laboratory Testing

THE DIRECTORATE of Standards and Measures is empowered to approve the bases for accrediting and evaluating testing and examination laboratories as well as measurement laboratories. Laboratory testing fees are set according to instructions issued by the Minister of Industry and Trade, for testing carried out at the Directorate's laboratories or at any other accredited laboratory. Testing and analysis will be carried out on materials, commodities and measurement instruments imported into, exported out of, or produced and manufactured inside the Kingdom. Testing fees are payable by the owners of such commodities and materials.

Article 22 of the Standards and Measures Law considered that every decision issued by the Directorate on the basis of a laboratory test results or analysis carried out on any commodity or material, to determine its compliance or non-compliance with standardised specifications, as a final decision not subject to appeal by any administrative or judicial party.

To enforce proper applications of standards and specification, the Directorate is empowered to accredit testing laboratories, specialised laboratories and measurement laboratories assigned to carry out testing, analysis and examination of commodities and materials.

The law defined an "Accredited Laboratory" as "The laboratory which has been granted credentials to carry out testing, analysis and measurement, by the Directorate."

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Made-in-Jordan

AL-HIKMA, the Amman-based pharmaceutical company started its production in mid 1979 with a line of branded generics. Today, it has shifted into a line of licensed specialised products.

Superior quality pharmaceuticals that abide by the strictest international standards are the company's main objective.

In order to meet the American Food and Drug Administration's current good manufacturing practice, Al-Hikma has established a separate plant for the manufacture of penicillin drug products.

The success of this policy can be noticed in the great number of products under license from companies such as K.V., Klinge, SK & F., Fujisawa, Chugai, and Eli Lilly.

These products include a wide variety of pharmaceutical forms, ranging from capsules, tablets,

syrops, suspensions and suppositories.

Al-Hikma started with a team of 50 people in 1979, today the number of employees is almost 300. Seventy-five per cent of Al-Hikma staff are university graduates.

Al-Hikma is actively involved in primary health care in Jordan through its participation with the Jordanian Ministry of Health and UNICEF in a campaign to reduce the infant mortality rate.

On the technical and research level, Al-Hikma collaborates with universities and multi-national pharmaceutical companies regarding methods of analysis, clinical trials and new pharmaceutical formulations.

For more information please contact Jordan Trade Association (JTA), P.O. Box 830432, Amman-Jordan. Tel: 685603.

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Money Matters

Average exchange rates on 25/1/1990 in Jds

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DEM.	391.0
SWF.	441.2
FRF.	115.0
Yen (100)	458.6

Parallel	
US	672.5
Pound	1,118.5
DEM.	399.5
SWF.	451.0
FRF.	118.0
Yen (100)	467.2

Consumer Watch

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THE SUPPLY Law gives you the option whether to request a retail purchase invoice or not. In a wholesale transaction, the wholesaler should make an invoice to the purchaser, detailing at least the type of commodity sold, quantity and the wholesale price.

A retail purchase invoice, though not specified by law, should declare, in addition to the type, quantity and retail price, the date of purchase, name of purchaser and the seller's signature or stamp. The seller's signature and stamp do not exempt him or her from having his or her name, or his or her store's name, printed on the invoice.

The Star ran into a young housewife who had some troubles convincing retailers that a purchase invoice is an important household document. She admitted that most retailers were willing to give her an invoice "upon her request", but accused her of being sophisticated and overconscientious. In a 15-retailer survey, The Star found out that three out of five retailers were not convinced that a purchase invoice, or even a cashier/receipt, made much of a difference.

The Star went on to conduct another 15-consumer survey, and to its surprise, it found out that four out of five consumers believed that a purchase invoice was a new and an unnecessary language.

A purchase invoice is simply defined as "An itemised bill containing all the prices which comprise the total charge". This simple definition, which indicates that an invoice has many useful functions and purposes, challenges allegations that a purchase invoice is an unnecessary language.

For more information please contact Jordan Trade Association (JTA), P.O. Box 830432, Amman-Jordan. Tel: 685603.

Contracts & Contacts

TN: 14/90. Intelligent modems and eight-channel multiplexer. Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. CD: 11/2/1990. TD: JD 5.

TN: 8/90. Flake anti-caking. Arab Potash Co. CD: 24/2/1990. TD: JD 50.

TN: 2/90. Cleaners. royal Scientific Society. CD: 3/2/1990. TD: JD 3.

TN: 28/90. 450 mts of copper cast and special gelatine. Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. CD: 28/2/1990. TD: JD 50.

TN: 29/89. Construction of production and observation boreholes at Eshidiya Mines - (water wells). Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. CD: 15/3/1990. TD: JD 150.

TN: 4/90. Construction of a school at Baqa'a Camp. UNRWA/Eng. Div. CD: 11/2/1990. TD: JD 20.

TN: 28/2/1990. TD: JD 150.

TN: 2/90. Maintenance works at the Amman Civil Airport. Jordan Aviation Authority. CD: 31/1/1990. TD: JD 10.

TN: 9/90. Revamp Services for potash dryer. Arab Potash Co. CD: 24/2/1990. TD: JD 75.

TN: 3/90. Construction of a wall, H: 3.6 m. L: 360 m, at the Royal Wing/Queen Alla International Airport. Civil Aviation Authority. CD: 30/2/1990. TD: 15.

TN: 47/90-59/90 (13 tenders). Supply of suitcases, ladders, stockings, appliances, stationery, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and T.V. sets. Civil Consumer Corp. CD: 10/2 - 17/2. TD: JD 5 each.

TN: 3/90. Impellers. Jordan Cement Factories Co. CD: 28/2/1990. JD: 10.

TN: 1/90. Laboratories. Ministry of Education. 7th Education Project No. 2890 - Jo. sponsored by the World Bank. CD: 8/3/1990. TD: JD 10. CD 5/2/1990. TD: JD 15.

TN: 1/90. Transporting 150,000 tons of heavy fuel (solar) from Iraq to Zerga warehouses. Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. CD: 4/2/1990.

TN: 3/90. Impellers. Jordan Cement Factories Co. CD: 28/2/1990. TD: JD 10.

This service is free-of-charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc. details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Industrial Zones

Amman Industrial Estate

THE AMMAN Industrial Estate at Sahab has grown rapidly in the past two years and has successfully attracted and accommodated a significant number of small and medium size industries.

The Corporation believes there is a necessity for promoting its Industrial Estates and has thus established a custom centre which facilitates, saves the time, efforts and expenses of the investors and encourages export oriented industries.

The centre was set up in April 1989 and has, since then, launched its activities in both export and import sectors for the industries located within Amman Industrial Estate.

At the same time, it covers the activities of imports for industries located within the boundaries of Greater Amman Municipality.

Amman Industrial Estate Custom Centre is the third centre to be established in the Kingdom (after Amman and Aqaba Centres). It has enough and well experienced staff to cope with the growing demands of the Estate.

Moreover, an adequate number of clearance companies are located next to the centre which has representatives of different official departments such as Health Department and Standards and Specifications Department.

For more information contact Amman Industrial Estate (Sahab), Tel-Plant 722470.

Shows & Exhibitions

P.E.S.C.P.

Permanent Exhibition and Sales Centre for Imported Products (PESICP), is scheduled to open in May, 1990. The exhibition will display products of foreign exporters to US markets.

Address: PESICP, 115 S.E. 3 Ave. Miami; Florida 33131, U.S.A. Tel. (305) 358-7533, Fax (305) 358-7721.

SIAL

The 14th SIAL, International Food Exhibition, is scheduled between 22 and 26 October 1990, at Paris - Nord Exhibition Centre - Ville pinle. SIAL - 39, Rue de la Bienfaisance - 75008 Paris, France. Telex 650614, Fax: (1) 42894694.

Japan launches an all-out economic offensive in the Mideast

Financial aid and export credits generously extended

IN THE Middle East, as in other parts of the world, Japan's powerful export drive established a profitable commercial beachhead in recent decades. Now, to broaden and reinforce its economic ties with the region, Japan is offering loans and technical aid as well.

For example, several weeks ago, Japan's Export-Import Bank announced united loan agreements with four Algerian institutions. The loans will be used to modernise agriculture and expand farm production, and will help finance projects such as railway modernisation and electric power supply and transmission.

Three of the loans, worth a total of \$243.5 million, will be extended jointly by the World Bank and private Japanese financial institutions. A syndicate of such institutions will provide the fourth loan, worth \$210 million.

Also in December, a syndicate of Japanese and foreign-affiliated financial institutions agreed to loan Turkey up to 20 billion yen, or about \$138 million, in joint financing. This represents Turkey's first yen-denominated loan. The syndicate is being led by six Japanese banks, including Nippon Credit Bank.

Japan is also providing aid to the region that supplies half its diet of four million barrels of oil a day. In September, Japan agreed to supply Qatar with technical expertise, including gas exploitation and petrochemical production, and marine cultivation. Qatar had asked Tokyo to support a joint venture project to develop the North Field gas deposit. Marubeni Corp. of Japan owns 7.5 per cent of the project, which started in August.

In October, funds worth \$85 million went to Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman for the installation of radio aids for safe navigation of ships in the Gulf. In July 1988, before the Gulf cease-fire, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait received emergency aid worth \$5.1 million for such navigational systems.

The commitment to help the US safeguard shipping in the Gulf was made in 1987. However, at that time Japan pledged aid worth only \$10 million.

Japanese assistance to Iran is resuming after a 10-year interruption. Talks are under way between Tokyo and Tehran to increase the number of Iranian students to be trained in Japan. Also, the Japanese have agreed to expand rice farming projects on the Caspian coast and review the master plan for Tehran Airport.

Under the relatively open regime of Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a Japanese language and cultural centre has opened at Tehran University.

Reportedly, Rafsanjani has instructed Mohammed Adeli, head of the Central Bank, to borrow \$15 billion from Japan over the

next three years. Iran presently has little or no foreign debt. Before his new appointment, Adeli had been Iran's ambassador to Japan.

The President's intention to borrow money has upset Iranian hard-liners, since the Quran forbids the payment of interest. They also say the move endangers the state's political independence.

Rafsanjani may sidestep the religious prohibition by swapping long-term deliveries of Iranian oil for industrial goods and other essential imports. Japan currently takes 19 per cent of Iran's crude exports.

The Pacific economic colossus has staked out a strong position among industrialised countries vying for postwar trade with Iran. In October, it settled its dispute with Iran over a joint petrochemical project which was abandoned after being 85 per cent completed. After the Iran-Iraq war began in September, 1980, Mitsui Co. and 104 other Japanese firms pulled out of the project. They refused to return, claiming that war damage made the project uneconomical. In the end, Mitsui agreed to pay \$928 million in compensation to Iran.

As soon as the Gulf cease-fire took effect on 20 August 1988, Japan set up four trade offices in Dubai to improve its chances of capturing post-war reconstruction contracts. Their function is largely to supply materials for seven Japanese joint venture companies in Iran which began operating after the war ended.

These manufacturing units are mainly in the petrochemical, footwear, and construction areas. However, the trading offices are also on the lookout for opportunities in textiles and electronics.

In mid-November, Japan announced plans to open a consulate in Dubai. The United Arab Emirates are an important trading partner, buying \$1.3 billion worth of Japanese cars, machinery, electronic and other goods a year. Japan imported \$5.3 billion worth of oil from the United Arab Emirates in 1988. It is looking for ways to increase non-oil imports, possibly fish and dates.

More than 80 Japanese business delegations have visited Dubai since the cease-fire, trying to recapture Gulf market shares lost since 1979.

By contrast with Iran, Iraq already owes several billion dollars to Japanese firms that in-

vested in construction of oil pipelines, highways and hospitals. During the war, Iraq was unable to meet its payments. But in the first half of 1989, 15 per cent of the payments Iraq received for oil shipments to Japan were returned in the form of debt repayment.

The ratio of repayments to oil sales was then raised several times and is expected to increase again by as much as 45 per cent in the near future. Iraq announced in December that it had agreed to repay all indebtedness to Japan. In return, Japan will

extend a \$3 billion credit line and financial facilities to fund development projects and cover part of Iraq's imports from Japan.

Political power accompanies economic might, and Japan has begun to expand its role in the region. Last summer, 100 members of the US Congress charged that the government of Japan "condoned" decisions by Japanese firms not to sell goods to Israel, in compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel. Tokyo denied that it told companies not to trade with Israel, and stressed that it was eager to play a role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

At about that time, Honda Motor Co. announced that its US subsidiary, American Honda, would start selling cars to Israel in 1990. It joins fellow Japanese car makers Subaru, Daihatsu, Isuzu, and Mitsubishi, which already sell to the Israeli market.

Facing a shrinking domestic market, American Honda will benefit from the US-Israeli free trade agreement, which reduces tariffs gradually over five years. Israel demanded an agreement from Japanese Honda to supply spare parts for the cars. About a

quarter of American Honda car parts are made in Japan.

Direct Japan-Israel trade has tripled in the past four years to \$1.1 billion in 1988, up from \$385 million in 1985. Trade figures in 1988 registered a 40 per cent increase over 1987. Japan is Israel's third largest export market, after the US and Britain. The island nation bought \$676 million from Israel in 1988.

Most of Japan's purchases were of diamonds, but other industries are making headway as well. In a recent announcement, Elscint, which makes nuclear medical imaging equipment, said it had signed an exclusive marketing agreement with a Japanese company. Elscint estimated that it would capture 10 per cent to 20 per cent of Japanese market for such products within three years, competing against large Japanese firms such as Toshiba.

Israel expects to make more such inroads, partly with the help of a joint Japan-Israel Commission that is to hold its first meeting this month in Tokyo. The Commission will provide a forum for regular dialogue on both political and economic matters. Economic ties will also be enhanced by the expected opening of an Israeli consulate in Osaka.

SABIC's 1989 profit approaching one billion dollars

RIYADH -The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) registered a profit of around one billion dollars last year as its plants produced at over 20 per cent of capacity to meet demand.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), record targets set at the beginning of 1989 were achieved "within months". However, no official figures of exact profit margins and production levels were given.

The kingdom's Industry and Electricity Minister Abdulaziz Al-Zamil announced last November that SABIC's profit for the first nine months of the year stood at \$689 million, a 6.7 per cent increase over the same period in the previous year.

SPA said that during 1989, SABIC had expanded its marketing operations, opening new offices in the United States and Britain. Other branches were planned for the Far East which purchased one-third of all SABIC products produced.

SABIC products were now exported to 65 countries worldwide. It operated 15 major manufacturing affiliates producing over 10 million tons of petrochemicals, plastic resins, fertilisers and steel annually.

The agency said that to keep pace with the fast-growing Saudi market, it had run plants at levels well above design capacity.

In 1987, the Saudi petrochemical company produced at 16 per cent above its capacity level and two ethylene process furnaces had been constructed to help support the existing eight furnaces, it said.

One of the success stories of 1989 was Petrokem, which began production of plastic resin polystyrene. Demand for the product proved strong taking sales up to 100,000 tons for the year.

Plans to develop the company were well advanced, the report said, stating that a design proposal to upgrade production by 700,000 tons a year would be considered early in the 1990s.

Also of note was the efficient operation of the Saudi European Petrochemical Company which

began production of MTBE. The plant only went on stream a year ago, marking the completion of SABIC's 15 original projects.

The agency said that the National Chemical Fertiliser Company at Jubail was undergoing massive expansion.

Following a series of deals, Italy's Technipetrol was undertaking the project on a 'cost-plus' contract. Other agreements for the \$185 million scheme had gone to the Saudi Beltech Heavy Industries and South Korea's Shinwa Engineering.

The project, when completed, would add 1.3 million tons a year of phosphate and nitrogen fertiliser to the company's production, it said.

In another development project, the Saudi Iron and Steel Company had approved a scheme to increase output to two million tons annually. Production currently stands at just over one million tons.

The firm was already meeting 90 per cent of domestic demand and this figure was likely to increase further.

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Our Say...

Demographic threat

THE JORDANIAN-Syrian talks which were held in Amman this week came at a critical time when the region is facing yet another political onslaught in the form of waves of Soviet Jews settling in Israel and the occupied territories.

In his interview with The Star, Jordan's Foreign Minister Mr Marwan Al Qasem made it clear that this dangerous development is an added element to the Arab-Israeli conflict and that the danger goes beyond the confrontation states to threaten the stability of the area and indeed the Arab Order.

The threat of settling around a million Jews in the occupied territories definitely extends to include Syria. Damascus has fought in all Arab-Israeli wars, and its lands, the Golan Heights has been annexed by Israel. Hence comes the importance of joint Jordanian-Syrian efforts to "educate", in the words of Mr Al Qasem, the rest of the Arabs and the international community on this new dangerous development in this region.

While we join those calling for the convening of an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the issue, we point to the fact that the peace process will in effect be derailed if nothing is done to stop the new Jewish influx to the occupied areas.

The Arabs must come up with answers as soon as possible to Israel's new de facto move. The demographic map of the area is changing every day with the arrival of about 1500 immigrants to Israel every week.

Israel is not making a secret of its designs for the future. They include the actual removal of Arab inhabitants from their lands to be replaced by Jewish settlers and the possibility of physical expansion into South Lebanon, parts of Jordan and Syria in order to have access to precious water and arable land.

The "Transfer" scheme is not a new idea to the Israelis. They have been toying with the idea ever since the six-day war in 1967. The Palestinian uprising, now moving into its third year, has strengthened the arguments of the proponents of this scheme. The Israeli Right would not hesitate to use the new settlers to carry out mass slaughters of Palestinians by putting the new arrivals in direct confrontation with them.

As for Israel's quest for expansion, the past decades have proved that nothing can prevent the Zionist state from sending its armies into neighbouring states in order to destabilise and put its hands on their natural resources. Already parts of South Lebanon are under Israeli occupation. There are fears that with shortage of water in the area in the coming few years Israel will be looking at Al Yamouk river in Jordan and Syria and at other water sources in South Lebanon.

The exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel has changed the rules of the political game in the Middle East. The question is whether we understand the new rules and whether we are doing anything about them.



Letters to the editor

A sickening attitude

To the editor:

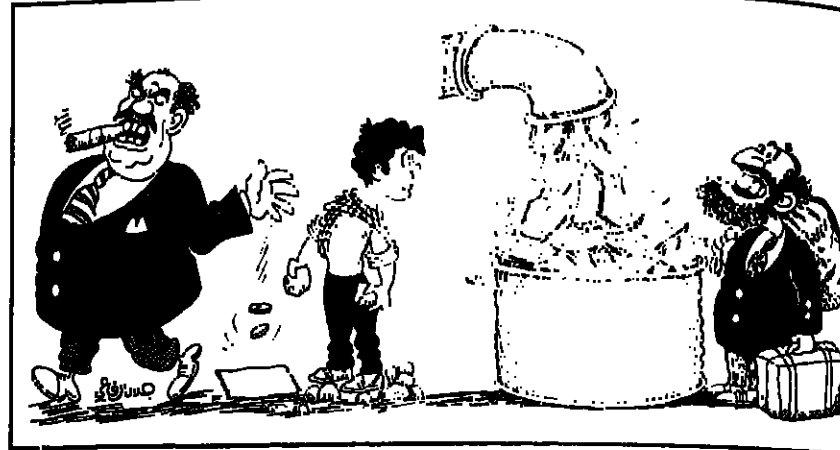
SICKENING IS the indifference with which the Arab governments are reacting to the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories.

Despite the devastating consequences that the new situation will have not only on the Palestinians and the peace process in the region but probably on the rest of the Arab world, the Arabs have done almost nothing that would indicate their understanding of the size of the problem.

An Arab summit should be held immediately to decide on the best means for countering the Israeli scheme. For once, Arab diplomacy should prove its efficiency by lobbying public opinion to pressure the Soviet Union into reversing its decision to allow hundreds of thousands of Jews to emigrate to Palestine.

While there is a lot that the Arabs can do now to obstruct such massive exodus of Jews to the occupied West Bank and Gaza, I am not sure they will be able to do anything when Israel expels thousands of Palestinians in order to settle the new emigrants in their homes.

An observer.



Postscript

by Osama El-Sherif

The speech

WHEN THE honourable deputy was given the floor to speak he looked around himself to make sure that he had the attention of all those present. He marched down the aisle and climbed up the podium. As he pulled a neatly folded package of papers from his vest, his mind was racing, thinking of the best way to salute the spectators around him.

He hoped that his voice would not fail him at this critical moment. Deep inside he was confident that what was about to be delivered will attract the attention of everyone present.

As he read loudly the first page of his speech his mind began to screen thousands of mental thoughts. This was an important moment for him. Democracy or no democracy he is here to say what he always wanted to say and it was much.

Before he got to the crux of the matter he had a dozen pages to read. The young apprentice lawyer who wrote the speech was so impressed with it that he promised the honourable deputy a standing ovation. But the deputy knew that this was against regulations. He would expect fellow deputies to congratulate him personally after the session was adjourned. As he reached page number six he realised that it was getting hot and humid.

His eyes took a leave from the written speech and searched for the sealed plastic cup containing mineral water. He chose a suitable paragraph to read in a high-pitched tone before giving himself few seconds to wash-away his thirst with water.

As he continued his rambling, the honourable deputy knew that he was not, as he had expected, commanding the attention of the house. His heart beat rapidly and he felt the sweat trickling from under his arm pit.

He decided to move right into the main theme of his speech. So cleverly he skipped a few pages and raised his left arm as he yelled: "And now to the main issue before us..."

He could not but notice that a deputy from his district was whispering something in the ear of another. This confused him immensely. Was he the subject of their secret dialogue? Is he doing so badly? But he soon regained his composure and turned yet another page.

As he was unconsciously reading his speech, his mind was wandering aimlessly around the building, into the city outside and even farther to the village. The honourable deputy relaxed as he saw with his mind's eye the school in which he used to teach, the country road that led to the main highway and the simple house in

which he lived most of his adult life.

Life was simple then, before all this had happened. But he liked the idea of becoming a public figure, deliberating with other honourable deputies on issues of great importance, and receiving members of his constituency to hear their grievances. The reason for which he thought he was chosen as a candidate in the first place was his abilities as an orator. This fact brought him back to reality. He was in page 11 and there were 10 other pages to go.

He dared to have a glimpse or two around him. The Speaker was writing down some notes, his colleagues were either listening or talking to each other. He felt uncomfortable as he saw two deputies leaving the chamber.

As he focused his attention on the speech before him he noticed two spelling mistakes in the page he was reading. This fact terrified him for he knew that as soon as he finishes photocopies of his speech will be distributed to the public. He hoped, no he prayed, that no one, especially his honourable colleague from the same district, will notice the mistakes. How can he, a school master, make such silly errors. It is not his fault, he told himself, but that of the young lawyer. He was mad and wanted to finish his speech as soon as possible.

But how can he skip any page now that he had just started dealing with the major issues at hand?

By now he was not even listening to his own voice. His mind was bogged trying to figure out a solution to that unfortunate mistake.

He gave up on thinking of an excuse and regained his concentration. He decided to skip over the two paragraphs containing the silly misspellings. And he did. His eyes scanned the faces of deputies but he noticed no reaction. He felt pleased with himself and allowed his mind to wander again.

By the time he was thinking of his malfunctioning motor car, his eyes caught up with the paper before him. He was up prodding the end and immediately he pulled himself together, raised his hand again for no apparent reason and lifted his eyes to the public and smiled as he ended his speech with "wasalamuallikum".

The Speaker's voice punctuated a brief moment of silence as the honourable deputy returned to his seat. As he rearranged his papers he glanced at his colleagues from the same district and for some reason the man was smiling... no he was sniggering.

He dried his forehead with a handkerchief and began to take notes.

What Comes Next?

By Ibrahim Abu Nab

NINETEEN-EIGHTY NINE was the year that was. "For those who like to roll the taste of history on their tongue," wrote The Economist, "this has been a vintage year though not one of the greatest. ... It has been a wonderful year, a year your great-grand children's schoolbooks will open a whole chapter on; but it does not rank with the great years of history. In the great years, something new is written into the human ledger. This year has been an crasing year. It did a splendid job, clearing the page for whatever comes next; but that is not exactly the same thing."

In 1989, one felt that when man started to know

or pretended to know all the answers, God the Almighty

changed the questions, and many so-called great leaders of men failed to read what was being written on the wall. To the question of laissez faire economics, the answer had been planned economy in the form of democratic capitalism or Marxist-Leninist communism. But when the walls of communism were tumbling down in the socialist bloc and the walls of racism were also starting to crumble in South Africa, the United States seemed like having the chance of its life to go for a shopping spree in Latin America for some ambivalent answers to some sore questions: Would it be in the best interests of the American citizen to "protect" him against drugs by beating the drug pushers in their home grounds? And is it not morally right to do so?

Drugs, to be sure, were coming to be recognised by the West itself - let alone the rest of the world - as not the only failing of America. But they pointed the finger to a deeper and parallel malaise which hit the Western civilisation as a whole ever since the advent of the age of industrialism with colonialism and imperialism. It was an ominous moral flaw which reflected itself on the state of mankind and the environment.

It is in the nature of moral failure to make people unable to read the meaning of events in the outside world as well as in their own selves. All religions and literatures tell you so. And if the United States was not reading correctly what was written on many walls, it was certainly not reading what was written on the Walling Wall in Jerusalem. While that wall should have crumbled by the establishment of the State of Israel, it seemed only to be extended to make room for more walling in the Holy Land. The Intifada was showing that



essential question of why we are here kept evading us all.

"The upheaval of 1989," as The Economist said, "is the beginning of the end of Lenin's 1917 revolution. It may also be the end of the wider error that began exactly two centuries ago: The notion that politics is a science, the people can be governed out of a laboratory. In fact it would be odd if politics or economics were the issue that led to history's next great years. The were the subject of the last argument which has just been settled. They next argument will probably be about something different: Something out there in the misty ground beyond the now routine organisation of everyday life. Muslim fundamentalists know what they think the next hundred years will be about. So do the rashy new sects of the fringes of Christianity."

Quite rightly I think, The Economist considers that neither of those two trends look quite like the bringers of the future. But they may be pointing in the right direction.

It is quite obvious now to Muslims, be they fundamentalists or not, that man alone cannot shape his final destiny. That is because he did not create himself in the first place. If he is not guided by his innate knowledge of the purpose of God in his life and the consensus of people on that knowledge, man can go quite wrong. Man's transient desires can delude him away from the thought of his real condition and what he ought to do. He must be a truth seeker in order to realise his destiny. Man's purpose must agree with God's purpose as shown in the Qur'an and by the deeds of the Prophet Muhammad.

There will come a time, according to the Qur'an, when the so-called "mountains" will be blown up by the truth. Such mountains are not, of course, real mountains but heaps of false pretensions within the soul of man manifested in power blocks. On this micro level, such mountains are psychological complexes which grow out of evading the real issue and by trying to falsify the truth.

And on the macro level, the mountains grow out of the machinations and coming togetherness of those who would like to play gods, i.e. decision-makers, by earning more than they need or deserve. All prophets have been trying to warn man against such tendencies and remind him of his God given appointment as a holder of God's trust on earth. When a civilisation or a generation misses the point, it shall meet with disaster as happened to all decaying civilisations in history.

When we in Jordan realise this as Muslims, we will stop taking the pill of the usual materialistic pastures and look forward to a new phase in the next decade. Jordan is a small country indeed and with limited natural resources. If we go the traditional way, without tapping our immense spiritual resources, it will be impossible indeed for us to catch up with the growing demands on our resources and manpowers.

As we see the so-called "mountains" collapse in the world at large, we have to ponder the blowing up of the mountains within ourselves as it happens through God's intervention as promised "on the day when people will follow their true impulse and the loud voices will surrender to compassion until you can hear nothing but whisper."

The multinational corporation as well as the totalitarian state tended to break up the family as a social unit. The family goes along with small business. Government is big business. So we have to go back to small businesses as quickly as we can and keep the family before it disintegrates completely.

Man, however, must learn to ask the right question before giving the right answers. He must become a truth seeker. And that can only happen through a free press. Next by bread alone shall he live!

View Point

by
Yacoub Jaber

A summit for all issues

AN ARAB summit conference seems to have become a must in light of the rapidly changing conditions around us. If Arab countries intend to hold a summit on Lebanon, other issues should be listed on the agenda of such a conference. It is not Lebanon alone which calls for a summit.

Take, for instance, the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the plans to settle them in the occupied Arab territories and the repercussions of this immigration on pan-Arab security.

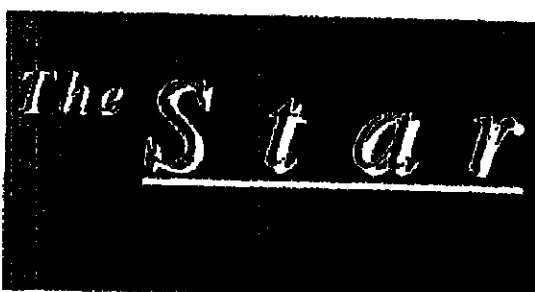
The alarming wind of change in the Eastern bloc which resulted in a drastic shift in the attitudes of socialist countries towards the Arab-Israeli conflict also calls for a high-level meeting. In other words, an emergency Arab summit has become a necessity. Urgent collective Arab moves need to be taken to cope in a serious manner with these developments.

In the beginning, and in order to remove any obstacle which blocks common Arab action, a full comprehensive Arab reconciliation should be accomplished. Patching-up the remaining inter-Arab differences needs to be given top priority in any effort to counter the common challenges represented by Israel's adamant intent on expansion to establish "greater Israel", as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has bluntly put it.

The growing threat of the Israeli right does not exclude any Arab country no matter how remote it might be from the centre of the conflict and regardless of how deceptively safe it may feel. Of course, those who are close to Israel and the occupied territories are more directly threatened and there are compelling reasons which call on them to unify their stances against the common danger. Ideological or personal differences no longer justify the continuation of unnecessary splits which make it easier for the enemy to deal future sudden strikes.

The Lebanese dilemma needs to be tackled by a summit. Peace and stability in Lebanon could be the opening for inter-Arab reconciliation and a unified Arab strategy. But Lebanon remains a problem in a sea of trouble in which the entire Arab world could plunge in the not very far future if the Arabs fail to recognise the danger and do not act swiftly and in unison to contain it.

His Majesty King Hussein was the first to sense the danger stemming from massive Soviet Jewish emigration and call for collective Arab moves. In a recent statement, the King warned that the very depth of the Arab homeland could soon become threatened. He stressed the need for Arab consultation and contacts at the highest level. What His Majesty had in mind, I suppose, is an emergency Arab summit.



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THE STAR 13

By Mary Patrick
Special to The Star

LONDON - During the five years under Rajiv Gandhi as prime minister, India's economic growth exceeded five per cent a year, industry grew by an average 8.5 per cent annually and agricultural output expanded despite drought and other setbacks.

The policies which led to that change - drawn up much before Gandhi succeeded his mother when she was assassinated in 1984 - are not likely to change drastically with the election of V.P. Singh to prime ministership in November 1989.

Economic liberalisation under Rajiv benefited the middle classes but mass poverty remains. It was a major election issue which contributed to Rajiv's downfall. India's per capita income of \$300 is less than that of Pakistan at \$350, or of Sri Lanka at \$400.

If a general relief from poverty is to be achieved, a better balance of economic policies will be unavoidable, according to Dr Shreekanth Sambrani, who worked recently with the Overseas Development Institute in London.

An annual growth rate of six per cent is the official target of India's Eighth Five-Year Plan (1990-1995), reflecting confidence gained by the much faster growth of the 1980s and the need to improve welfare. Major goals for the year 2000 are self-sufficiency in virtually all agricultural requirements, eliminating absolute poverty, population growth reduced to replacement rate, providing potable water to every village, and immunising every child.

"Growth is to be achieved primarily by continuing the 1980s policies," Sambrani says in a briefing paper published by the institute.

Singh's government, he says, will be concerned with familiar tasks: managing deficits, arresting inflationary trends and holding borrowing to present levels. "Devising major new plans is unlikely to be a preoccupation," he observes.

But he warns that "fulfilment of election promises could cause some additional drain of resources,

India-A post-election perspective

The policies of liberalisation and re-adjustment must continue under the new government in India if the aims of eliminating poverty and achieving self-sufficiency and basic health care for all are to be achieved by the year 2000.

India Indicators

Population 442m (1961) • 690m (1981) • 810m (1989) • 1b (2000)

GNP per capita • US\$300 (1987)

Annual Growth Rate % (1965-80) (1980-87)

GDP	3.7	4.6
Agriculture	2.8	0.8
Industry	4.0	7.2
Manufacturing	4.3	8.3

Source: World Development Report 1989 & Overseas Development Institute London.

© Academic Pils

and substantial increases in public debt to finance the deficit are likely."

Sambrani foresees further structural re-adjustments, including a depreciation of the rupee and relaxation of controls and cutbacks in public expenditure to bring the economy back on an even keel.

It is often assumed that Rajiv Gandhi initiated India's economic liberalisation when he took over after his mother's assassination but the process, in fact, began under Indira Gandhi.

With the Sixth Plan (1980-85), a new industrial policy was formed aiming to make optimum use of existing capacity, while technological improvements led to increased output

and export capacity. On the whole, industrialists welcomed new measures which relaxed restrictions on 'monopoly' units, import of technology or equipment, foreign collaboration, locations, etc. for new and old enterprises. Protection afforded to public sector production was gradually removed.

There has, however, been a 10-fold growth in industrial output since 1950. While India has the capability to manufacture virtually any product from domestic resources, industrial development is unevenly spread. Most industry is confined to large cities, such as Bombay and Calcutta, while states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh show higher degrees of industrialisation than

the northeast, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and most parts of Bihar.

The small domestic market, with exports limited by uncompetitive prices and quality, restricts the size of manufacturing units to well below economic scale.

While India has been receiving about \$2 billion annually as official development assistance, this amounts to under \$3 per capita, among the lowest of all developing countries. As an aid recipient, Sambrani believes that India is perversely penalised for its size, and the extent of its poverty. If the spread of the 1980s reforms is to be continued in the 1990s, creating pockets of modern enterprises will not be enough, warns Sambrani.

The country's population, 798 million in 1987, and its continuing growth remain a major constraint on development. While fertility slowly has declined, mortality rates have fallen faster. Family planning has been only hesitantly accepted and attempts to impose population policies have proved difficult. The aim of achieving an average reproduction rate of 2.3 children per couple, appears unrealistic. The immediate prospects of a decline in population growth are therefore slower than expected.

The general consensus is that urban poverty is increasing as rural poor migrate to cities in search of jobs. Slow growth in industrial employment has not mitigated the increase. The new five-year plan aims broadly at best to contain poverty, and Singh's government will be hard pressed to mobilise the resources to do more in the short to medium term.

India in the 1990s must therefore depend on finding internal strengths to enhance investment and productivity. The critical lesson most economists draw from the 1980s is that India suffered during the 1970s because it remained locked in policies of earlier decades.

If the possibilities of the 1990s are to be converted into real opportunities of growth, policies looking to the future, rather than belated correctives, are necessary.

1960s, together with the strategy of promoting advanced production techniques. Government support of prices encouraged farmers to respond positively to the package, but the large subsidies, plus relief against drought, further strained the economy.

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Soviet Jews:

No longer a dribble

PLANE-LOADS of Soviet Jews continued to arrive in Israel this week despite Arab protests and condensations over the effect of Israeli plans to settle one million Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories during the coming five years.

The present rate of influx has been estimated at between 1300 and 2400 per month. Most of the Russian emigrants are arriving via Moscow or other Eastern European capitals. The mass exodus has upsurged in the last few months after Moscow relaxed its exit visa regulations for the so-called "refuseniks."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has made it clear that Israel needs the occupied Arab territories to absorb thousands of newly-arrived Jewish families. Observers estimate that between 750,000 to one million immigrants will be settling in Israel and the occupied territories; the West Bank and Gaza, over the coming six years thus increasing the Jewish population by a fifth.

In the past the majority of Soviet Jews leaving the Soviet Union preferred to head directly to the United States, Canada and Australia. But since the United States has announced that it is imposing a quota on Jews emigrating, Israel has made sure that emigrants leaving the Soviet Union head directly to the occupied territories. Beginning this year a direct air link was established between Moscow and Tel Aviv for this purpose.

But in an interview with the Jordan Times this week, an American Embassy spokesman in Amman said that the United States expects to accept 50,000 Soviet-emigrants during 1990. He said this figure represents an increase of 25 per cent over 1989 figures.

While the Arabs, in particular Jordan and the Palestinian leadership (PLO), see the flood of Soviet Jews into Israel and the occupied territories as a blow to the peace process and a prelude to executing the Israeli "trans-

fer" scheme (see interview on page 4), some Western observers believe that Israel will face enormous financial and social difficulties in absorbing and rehabilitating the newcomers. The United States has made it clear that it will not allow its aid money to Israel (currently running at about 3 billion annually) to be used in settling immigrants in the occupied territories. But this official US policy does not seem to have deterred the Israeli government from going ahead with

its plans. The Jewish Agency has announced last year that the cost of settling 100,000 Soviet Jews over the next three years would be \$2 billion. Agency officials said they hoped most of the funding will come from the United States.

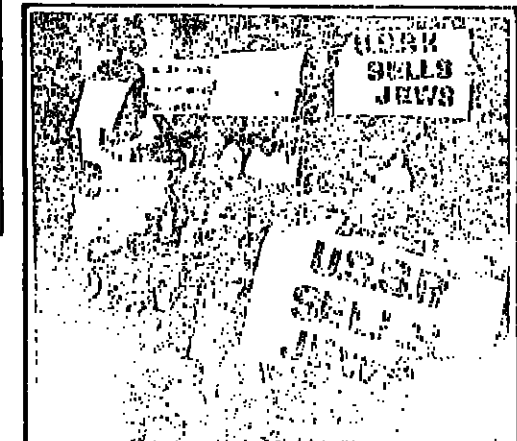
"We should exercise pressure on the nations of the world to stop this," Faisal Al Hussein told reporters last week. He was recently detained by the Israeli authorities on the accusation of helping to raise money for the Palestinian

uprising, but was later released pending investigations. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip observed a widespread strike last week to protest against the surging influx of Soviet Jews to Israel. Israel expects 50,000 emigres to reach Israel during this year.

"Before, people were just talking about dribbles of immigration but now they are talking about almost a million Jews coming in this country and in a very short time. That is almost as many Palestinians as there are in the West Bank," said Sari Nusseibeh, a Palestinian historian at Bir Zeit University.



About 50,000 Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel this year. Total number of immigrants to be absorbed during the coming five years is set at one million. This is the most serious event since the Palestinian uprising broke out in 1987.



A stream of Soviet emigres disturbs the occupied territories

THE SOVIET immigrants from Leningrad had been in Israel only 48 hours, and here in Ariel, one of the West Bank's largest Jewish settlements, their suitcases still sat unpacked in an otherwise empty bedroom. But the couple already spoke with the conviction of hardened Israeli nationalists.

"We know about the problems in the territories," said Valery Ushyskin, a 27-year-old physician who came here last week with her husband, Vitaly, a 29-year-old engineer. "But the Jewish population in the territories must grow."

In the last few months, about 40 Soviet Jewish families have moved to Ariel, a settlement of almost 10,000 people, and dozens more are moving into several other settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

That is just a trickle from the flood of Soviet Jews moving to Israel at a rate of more than 1,000 a week. More than 400 immigrants arrived on a chartered El Al flight last week, and if they are typical, only 1 to 2 per cent of them will choose to move to the West Bank or Gaza.

But trickle or no, the movement of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories in any numbers has created a tempest.

Mr Natsheh was one of 30 Palestinian leaders who signed a protest letter last week to the consuls general of the United States and other Western countries in occupied Jerusalem.

"In this land of limited resources and capacities, the statement said, 'clearly the influx of immigrants will be simply an additional step in the process of dispossession of the Palestinians.'

If not for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, it is possible that few people would have noticed the trickle of Soviet Jews moving to the West Bank. Earlier

Gaza settlements, now just over 70,000, will rise by as much as 20 per cent - even without the normal growth of the settlement population. More than 2,000 Israeli families moved to the West Bank and Gaza Strip last year.

"Those who are concerned about stability in the region must surely realise that when Israel intends to absorb such a large number of people into the occupied territories, this could only disturb the peace process," Marwan Al Qasem, the Jordan Foreign Minister, said.

In a strike last week, Palestinians in the occupied territories closed their stores and stayed home from work to protest the influx of Soviet Jews.

Mustafa Natsheh, a former mayor of Hebron, explained the Palestinian anger.

"Israelis are against the right of return for Palestinians to the areas, and yet at the same time they are injecting the area with immigrant Jews," he said in an interview. "We want to have our Palestinian state alongside Israel and settle the Palestinian refugees there. But the immigration of Jews from abroad will change the demography, the face of the occupied areas."

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If not for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, it is possible that few people would have noticed the trickle of Soviet Jews moving to the West Bank. Earlier

this month he argued that Israel needed to hold onto the occupied territories because it would need the land for settling Soviet Jews. He backed away from the statement the next day, after a barrage of protests, including a strong denunciation from the United States.

Almost all Israeli government officials who are on the right of the political spectrum, including Mr Shamir, say that Soviet Jews have the right to live wherever they want - in the city of Tel Aviv, in the northern border town of Metulla or in Ariel.

"Of course we'd want them to stay with us," said Yisrael Harel, head of the Council of Jewish Settlements. "But if not, we'll still see it as an achievement of the whole Jewish people if they'll be absorbed in Tel Aviv and Netanya, too, and not just in the settlements or the kibbutzim."

Uri Gordon, head of the absorption department in the Jewish Agency, the quasi-government organisation largely responsible for settling Soviet Jews, suggests that for most of the new Soviet arrivals, "comfort and luxury" are the most important considerations when they choose where to live. "The services one gets in the territories aren't like those in the central region of the country," he said. "And that's a decisive factor in the immigrant's decision of where to live."

But the Ushyskins said they knew before leaving Leningrad that they wanted to live in a set-



are no Arabs in town," said Mr. Ushyskin.

Mrs Ushyskin called the territories a serious problem and said Israel must address the Palestinians' concerns. "But the territories are named Judea and Samaria," she added, using the Old Testament names for the West Bank. "Doesn't this tell you something?"

NEW YORK TIMES

France-Israel science pact signed despite EC sanctions

ISRAEL AND FRANCE will each spend \$500,000 over the next two years for joint research in supercomputer software and hardware, and a further \$500,000 each for joint research in biotechnology.

Israel's Science and Technology Ministry director-general Arye Shumer said that the accords show that scientific co-operation with the European Community continues despite an EC decision to limit scientific ties with Israel as punishment for its policies in the territories.

An official French delegation of computer experts headed by Prof. Alain Ben-Shoshan of the French National Computer Sciences Research Institute met at the Science Ministry in occupied Jerusalem with an Israeli team, to discuss the computer research programme. They said they hope work can begin as early as this summer.

Supercomputers, made only in the US and Japan, process calculations at many times the speed of ordinary computers. The American government recently halted delays in handling requests to purchase supercomputers by several Israeli universities and the Israel Military Industries.

The French minister of research and technology visited Israel last May at the invitation of Israeli Science and Technology Minister Ezer Weizman.

Unesco and the Media: Is the fight over?

The compromise formula for a world information order, agreed by UNESCO in Paris, is unlikely to resolve the longstanding dispute over the character and role of the UN organisation

By Michele Berenson
Special to The Star

PARIS - The compromise communication strategy approved by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the first half of the 1990s will please few radicals on either side of the fence and most likely will come in for a closer look in the near future, according to informed sources.

"The fight for a rational information order is not over," said one informed source who followed the recent deliberations.

In the compromise formula, many old code words about protection of journalists and government licensing and censorship

powers have been dispensed with. At the same time, the new communication programme has acknowledged the gulf between some media and the public with the observation that the public should be "educated" to avoid manipulation by the media.

The new 'communication strategy' reiterates the legitimacy of the New World Information and Communications Order, but Federico Mayor, director-general of the UNESCO appears to have been successful in watering down some of the phraseology.

Will that be enough to persuade Britain and the United States, among others, to rejoin the organisation? Most experts think not, since they believe that just as the compromise calmed passions, it also laid ground for further conflict.

During the general conference in November, Mayor fought off attempts to revive the 10-year-old plans for an information charter. Instead, delegates agreed to tone down the original text of

the New World Information Order by adopting a Japanese amendment. In the new version, controversial phrases have been rewritten to include the phrase "without any obstacle to the freedom of expression."

As the commission adopted the 'new strategy,' Mayor said, "This development is extremely important for the organisation in that UNESCO may finally be able to emerge from the bitter controversies of recent years. By adopting this new communication strategy, the member states have put UNESCO clearly on the path of liberty and solidarity."

UNESCO said the aim of the 'new strategy' is to improve the organisations effectiveness in ensuring the free flow of information on national and international levels, and its wider and better balanced dissemination, without any obstacle to the freedom of expression. It is also aimed at strengthening commu-

nication infrastructures in developing countries, in order to increase their participation in the communication process.

In some of the first reactions, Professor Iba Der Thiam, on behalf of the Group of 77, said, "the consensus which has been reached is the proof of the maturity, wisdom and sense of responsibility and mutual concession of the General Conference."

"The text which has been adopted is balanced, moderate, open and constructive. It takes into consideration the interests and sensitivities of all the geopolitical entities."

The European Community said members who chose to stay in UNESCO after the United States quit in 1984 were satisfied with the new order.

"This satisfaction," the Community said, "primarily stems from the fact that all groups concerned have been able to express their views and to find, after constructive negotiations, an

agreed language on what is essential, namely freedom and solidarity. The free flow of information at international as well as national levels is reaffirmed as an unconditional principle as formulated in the constitution."

"It is made clear that the search for a wider and better balanced dissemination of information should be understood without any obstacles to the freedom of expression. This position is of major importance to us, as is also the particular stress put on the freedom of the press as well as the independence, the diversity and the pluralism of the media. The development of the media, whether public or private, will receive equal attention."

"The strengthening of the co-operation, in a spirit of solidarity, is presented as a fundamental factor to permit all countries to strengthen their capacities of communication and to get a real benefit from the freedom of information."

Holy City with a turbulent history

In 1980 Israel proclaimed the two halves of Jerusalem as its new capital, defying objections of the international community. But in historical terms the provocative move was the latest in a series of measures and countermeasures that have marked Jerusalem's turbulent history.

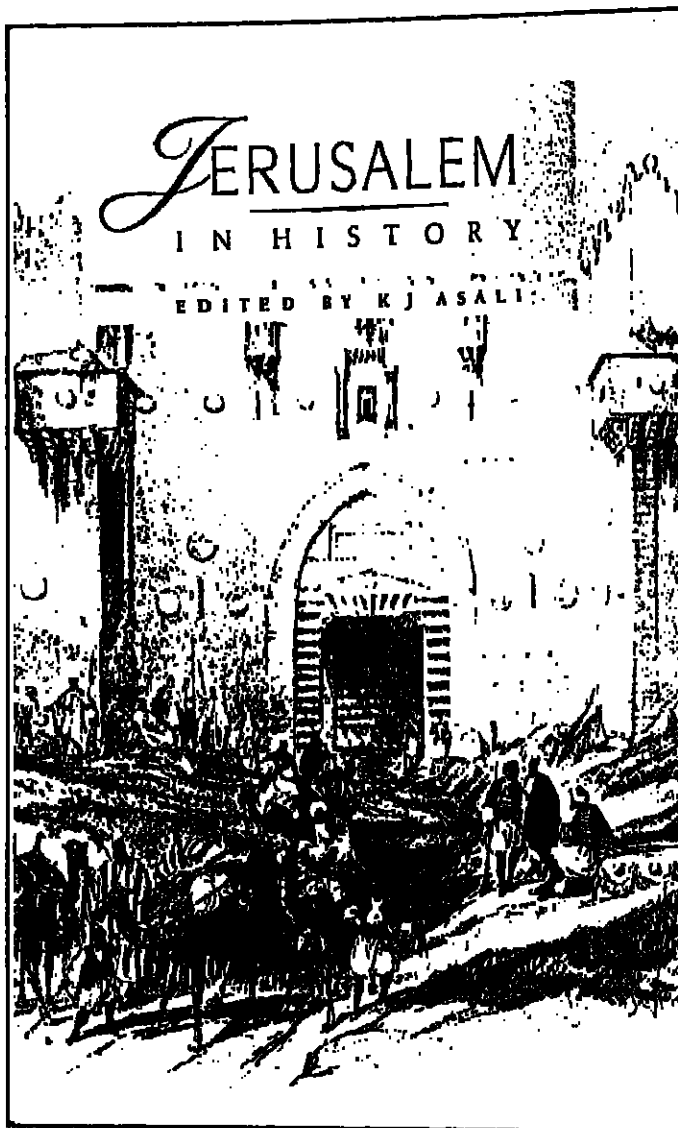
By Maggie James
Special to The Star

LONDON - The historic city of Jerusalem - unique for its association with the three great monotheistic religions of the world - has suffered a chequered history. Laid in hymns and songs, it has for centuries been a centre of pilgrimage for Muslims, Christians and Jews, but it has also undergone diverse occupations, suffered much destruction and been the scene of considerable bloodshed.

Revered by the Jews since it was captured by King David around 1000 BC, by Christians as the scene of Christ's crucifixion and by Muslims as the third holy city of Islam (after Mecca and Medina), Jerusalem is truly a city with a singular history. This is discussed in all its fascinating and grim detail in "Jerusalem in History" published by Scorpion Publishing and edited by Dr. K.J. Asali, himself a native of Jerusalem and author of six books on the Islamic heritage of the city.

The book offers a chronological account of Jerusalem from 3000 BC to 1987 AD written by eight internationally eminent scholars plus Asali himself. In its entirety Jerusalem in History forms a comprehensive study of a city whose experience is a mixture, in Asali's words, of "glories and catastrophes."

Asali is a former director of the University of Jordan Library. The contributors include H.J.



Franken, professor emeritus of Leiden University; George E. Mendenhall, professor emeritus at the University of Michigan; John Wilkinson, former director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem; Abdul Aziz Duri, professor of Islamic History at the University of Jordan; Mustafa A. Hiyari, from the history department of that university; Professor Donald P. Little, director of the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University, Montreal; the late Alexander Scholch, from the university of

Erlangen, West Germany, and Michael C. Hudson, director of the Centre of Contemporary Arab Studies and Seif Ghobash, professor of government and international relations at Georgetown University.

Among the names by which Jerusalem has been or is still known are Aelia Capitolina, Bait Al-Maqdis, Al-Quds, Salem, Salim, Shalem, and Urusalem. It has been under the rule of the Roman, Persian and Ottoman empires and the Crusaders (Franks) - and latterly Palestine,

Britain and Jordan.

In the first century BC Jerusalem was the capital of a Jewish state. Later, Roman rule meant persecution for Christians, their beliefs and destruction of church buildings. But under the Roman Emperor Constantine, who ruled in the fourth century AD and favoured the Christian faith, there was a transformation.

Churches were built at the state's expense. Jerusalem was thus turned from a Roman city with very little interest to the Empire into a city of great importance. The history of the city is thus largely to be understood in terms of its Christianity, and as a centre of pilgrimage," asserts John Wilkinson.

K.J. Asali describes in detail life in Jerusalem during the long Ottoman rule over the city. In the 16th century, he reveals, the great majority of the population were Muslim natives of Jerusalem, i.e. Arabs, but there was a small percentage of Muslims who chose to move to the Holy City from various Islamic and Arab countries, such as North Africa, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, Bosnia (in present-day Yugoslavia), India, Iran and several countries of Central Asia.

"The Christians were not, and were not regarded by the state, as one single community," says Wilkinson. "They were divided into a number of denominations and nationalities: Latins, Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Copts, Abyssinians, Serbs, Syrians, Georgians, etc. The majority of Christians, however, were Greek Orthodox Arabs."

There were five main branches of industry in the city at the time: food industries (oil-processing, grain-grinding, fruit-processing, manufacture of sesame etc.), textile and dyeing industry, leather industry, soap manufacture (there were nine soap factories), and metal (iron and copper) workshops.

Michael C. Hudson, who brings the story of Jerusalem up

to date, declares that 1917 was a fateful year for its inhabitants because it marked the end of over 1200 years of Arab and Turkish Muslim rule, which had been interrupted only briefly by the Crusaders. That year, Palestine, and Jerusalem, began three years under British military administration.

"It has been a double transition: on the political level, the total replacement of indigenous Arab and Turkish rule by that of Zionist-Jewish newcomers; and on the social level, the establishment of a modern fortress on whose physical aspects, demographic 'revolution' and Western acculturation have enveloped and almost overshadowed the Arab character of the city," says Hudson.

And what of contemporary Jerusalem, the eastern half of which was seized by Israel in June 1967 war and currently the scene of violent clashes between Israelis and Palestinians? Hudson warns: "Despite the present image of normality and prosperity, to anyone with a sense of history Jerusalem is a city in danger."

"First, it is endangered by the further dilution of its Islamic heritage. Second, it is endangered by the failure of those concerned with the city to solve the deep political conflict of which Jerusalem is both symbol and victim. It is pessimistic that in the distant future the probability of an Arab-Israeli war, in which Jerusalem might endure far more destruction than it has in past centuries, is high."

Jerusalem in History, Edited by K.J. Asali, Scorpion Publishing Limited, Essex, pp 295.

and where the episodes feature Jinan are too realistic to be placed anywhere outside the context of the situation that existed before the civil war erupted in 1975.

Liana Badr is an activist in the Palestine Liberation Organisation and has worked for some years with Palestinian women's organisations, including those involved in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

But her work is not a propaganda tract; it comes across as a lyrical rendition of the plight of a people on the verge of an uprising. Well, the uprising happened now and it's well known that it will spawn its own literature, perhaps including a contribution from Liana Badr.

A compass for the sunflower, Liana Badr (translated from the Arabic by Catherine Cobham), 119 pp, The Viking Press, 1994, £5.95, ISBN 0 670 85037 6.

The novel shifts to Beirut, now the centre of Palestinian resistance, where Sabra and Shatila refugee camps had been in existence since after the 1948 war,



non, events serve as the vehicle for Jinan's story. This is how the story of Jinan inevitably becomes the story of Palestine and Palestinians.

The novel shifts to Beirut, now the centre of Palestinian resistance, where Sabra and Shatila refugee camps had been in existence since after the 1948 war,

Liana Badr - Novelist with a cause

By Sybil Bernier-Hart
Special to The Star

LONDON - In Liana Badr's novel, *A Compass for the Sunflower*, the itinerant Palestinian woman moves back and forth between two worlds - changing and cherished - as she comes to grips with her predicament and the ultimate tragedy of her life. Jinan, child, teenager and mother-to-be, a denizen of the West Bank, Amman and Beirut, in that order roughly, might be representative of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and yet be a metaphor for the collective experience of a people.

It is above all a tale told simply and powerfully. The poetry of Badr's narrative has been successfully rendered into English by Catherine Cobham. Liana Badr is a Tunis-based Palestinian writer already well-known for her Arabic writing.

She has written regularly for the Arabic-language *Al-Hurriya*

Palestinian writer Liana Badr has produced a lyrical - and metaphorical - account of a young Palestinian's life. It's a story that many can easily identify with.

political review for more than 15 years. Her fiction includes short stories and works for children.

In *A Compass for the Sunflower*, Badr has used the instrument of her lyricism to convey a serious message: of lives torn apart, families and friendships brought to a violent end by war and occupation, and the quest of one individual - Jinan - to find coherence in her life.

The narrative of *A Compass for the Sunflower* flows backwards and forwards in time and space between several episodes or recent Palestinian history. From the traumatic events of the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967, which brought the Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza under direct Israeli military rule, to the unfolding of the crisis in Lebanon,

Jordan's foreign minister: 'We have a very healthy relationship with the PLO'

Continued From Page 4

less credence to the Israeli military machine and I am sure Israel will be affected by US budgetary cuts in the future. The Soviet threat has been minimised and therefore there is a more relaxed and assured feeling in the United States and this would translate itself in lessening their military dependence and military expenditures.

Besides, a country like the United States has more problems to deal with at home; the problem of the 3 million American homeless, the problem of drugs not to mention the huge deficit that (the US) will have to tackle in one way or another... we are going to see more and more cuts in American budget especially in their military budget.

So there is already a feeling that as a result of the developments in Eastern Europe we are going to see more of an inward looking (by the US) to tackle its domestic problems... what we see today is a new ballgame... we see for the first time in modern history only one superstate. There is another superstate in the making which is Europe.

Q: Since you mentioned Europe, what will be your strategy as a country and as a member of the ACC to deal with the new economic superpower which will emerge after 1992 in Europe?

A: If East Europe could merge with West Europe then we as Arabs should have been way ahead in merging because by the end of the day Arab interests are going to be one and the same, be it in the Gulf or here or in North Africa. This is the time when the Arabs have to look for their own benefit and security. They have to look and deal with the world as a unit. No matter how rich a country could be, it cannot deal unilaterally with the rest of economic groupings. The EEC started close to 40 years ago... the

seeds were sown in the early fifties in the Treaty of Rome and in 1992 you are going to see a single Europe politically, financially, economically in every aspect. I think the Arabs started to realise the importance of groupings... This is why you have the GCC, the Maghreb Union and the ACC.

Europe will continue to be the most important continent that we have to deal with in terms of our trade, our security, our strategy, our cultural, industrial and economic relations. If a state accepts to be singled out then in the end no matter how wealthy it is it will pay dearly.

Q: Our group, namely the ACC, will complete one year of its existence in February, do you see it as approaching its targets and

menis and if so it will be something that we respect and honour.

Q: What about the foreign policy of the ACC regarding issues like Lebanon for instance?

A: We have a very clear position by the ACC on regional issues and other international issues. The four countries are very coherent in their position on Lebanon. I refer you to the communiqué that was issued in Alexandria last year on the unified position of the four on Lebanon and the same goes for Iran-Iraq (conflict) and for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issues. So I think we have a most coherent policy on Arab national issues and we work closely with the GCC and the Arab Maghreb because all of

practical ways. I look for the interest of Jordan and how best I can help the Palestinian brethren and they respect this. We have a very healthy relationship.

There were in the past many inputs that created unhealthy situations between the PLO and Jordan. For example, let me sight the Jordan-PLO accord that was signed in 1985 and lasted for one year. Now that the PLO is dealing with the issue directly and the Arabs are supporting the PLO's position there is no way that one can get the impression that I am trying to take the PLO's part or the PLO is trying to take the part of Jordan in the West Bank and Gaza. All along Jordan's position regarding the West Bank from 67 till 88... on was how can we retrieve the West Bank not to incorporate it

as part of Jordan but to give it to its lawful inhabitants... this was the main issue. Many parties have tried to poison

a growing relationship between us and the PLO; some of these parties were from within our own Arab World, sometimes from the outside. And every time we felt we had overcome a hurdle we found two other hurdles in place.

After 1988 decisions taken by the PNC and the recognition of all the world including the United States (of the PLO) there was no way but to start a dialogue with the PLO. We will do everything to enhance the chances of peace based on the formula of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for a comprehensive peace... it is not a Palestinian-Israeli peace but an Arab-Israeli peace... a peace where there has to be withdrawal from Syria, from Lebanon, from parts of Jordan in the south and the occupied territories; Gaza and the West Bank. Everyone has to speak for himself within the context of a comprehensive settlement... But one has to address the focal point namely the Palestinians.

"It was only natural that Jordan would give the Palestinians every possible help and to see to it that the Palestinian personality, the Palestinian rights, the Palestinian attachment is with the Palestinian leadership"

Q: How would the unification of the two Yemens affect the ACC?

A: We welcome the unity absolutely. A unified Yemen will be an issue to be discussed by Yemenis and if so it will be something that we respect and honour.

Children sold to sheikhs as camel jockeys

By Aisha Ram
Special to The Star

NEW DELHI, India - Six children being smuggled to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and other Gulf countries to ride in camel races for the amusement of local sheikhs, have been rescued by the Indian police. Some were as young as four; the eldest was ten.

There may be hundreds more children from India, as well as from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tonga and Malaysia, who have already been bought by the sheikhs. Their impoverished parents sell them to agents of the sheikhs for Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 (US\$335 to US\$660).

In some cases, there is no outright sale. Parents are told that the boys will be educated in English and do odd jobs, like caring for camels. In return, parents receive Rs 400 (about US\$25) monthly.

Children have been taken from Churu, in Rajasthan, which faced drought for four successive years until 1988, and from the poor Muslim areas of Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh in South India. Children are probably being exported from other parts of the country too.

Children's macabre stories of being lured to the Gulf countries and sometimes tortured, have been sent shock waves throughout India. Immigration authorities are now checking the origin

of all young children going to the Arab world.

The demand is for young, lightweight children. The lighter the child, the faster the camel can run. For the races, young children are tied to the camels. The walls and screams as the terrified children pummel the camels and hit out with their feet frighten the camels and make them run faster.

Children say they were whipped, and given electric shocks before mounting the camels. Some are injured or maimed in the races and given cash compensation.

The trade was uncovered recently in New Delhi when Rammeshwar Lal, 45, and Zafar Hus-

sain, 40, of Churu in Rajasthan, were arrested by the police at Delhi airport with Habib, aged five, and Pandiya, seven. The police became suspicious because the children looked much younger than the ages given in their passports. The agents confessed to receiving Rs 18,000 (\$1,200) per child from an Arab sheikh in Abu Dhabi. The documents of five other children were recovered from them.

The Interpol wing of the Central Bureau of Investigation in India is probing this trade in young children. But officials are finding it difficult to halt the practice because poverty-stricken parents and relatives collude with child traders,

Insight
By
Dr. Nasib Al-Sharh

The new demographic factor

SOME WESTERN analysts struck a note of pessimism earlier this week over what they described as Israel's new hardened stance on the efforts to achieve peace in the region. They attributed this new Israeli position to an emerging sense of confidence, especially in the circles of the Israeli Right, over the flood of Soviet Jews who started streaming into Israel by the thousands.

In other words, the direct and immediate effect of this uncontrolled Soviet Jewish settlement on Palestinian land is a fundamental toughening in the attitudes of the Israeli Right regarding the peace process.

It is clear that the Israeli Right has been buying time all along, and now with the introduction of this new demographic factor represented in the influx of Soviet Jews, Shamir and his adherents feel that they can continue with their foot-dragging indefinitely.

It is no secret that the demographic factor was of great concern to many Israelis. We all remember the continued lamentation made by many Israeli leaders over the past few years over what they called the Arab demographic time-bomb. But now that the Soviet Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is beginning to tip the scale in Israel's favour, we may say there is a whole new ball game in the demographic arena. Israel's already procrastinating attitude has hardened even more, and the heroic people of the Intifada we left to fight an increasingly violent and defiant enemy all alone. But is there anything that the Arabs can do to combat this new threat?

To start with, the Arabs should urge a world-wide campaign of awareness, even if they have to call for an emergency session for the Security Council to point out the dangers of this new factor of Jewish-Soviet emigration. If Soviet Jews have the right to leave the land of their forefathers and choose another spot of land as their new 'home', they definitely do not have the right to settle in a 'disputed' land to say the least.

It is clear that Israel is 'lying' about this issue, claiming that Soviet Jews do not settle in the occupied territories. But this is not the first time Israel resorts to lying and fabrications to cover up its true intentions. This new factor should shake the Arab world into awaking to the challenge and to shouldering its responsibilities before it is too late.

Clowning as an art



SHOWING TONIGHT (Thursday) at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) is a piece of French theatre entitled "Clowns." On an exhausting two-year world tour the group, the "Mario Gonzalez Company" offers in its acclaimed show a mixture of comedy, mime, acrobatics, juggling and gymnastics.

An obvious "physical and visual" show "Clowns" is tailored to global presentation undertaking to make people laugh wherever it goes by "acting the clown" in a mish-mash of mockery and emotions carefully staged by its producer and director Mario Gonzalez. The actors Vincent Rouche, a comedian and theatre director, Normand Fauteux comedian and dancer and Marc Proulx, comedian and acrobat, bring their virtuosity to Mario Gonzalez's distinct theatre language.

A teacher himself for generations of student comedians Mr Gonzalez used the flexibility of the clown persona to achieve a "theatre of communication" working through improvisatory and commedia dell arte techniques. Without any elaborate distractions, the group holding in the basics of a bare stage, curtains, make up, costumes and three red noses rely on their powers to give us an hour and half of rollercoaster fun and tears. The show starts at 8 pm. Tickets JD 3, students half price.

Here comes the bride....

Wedding dresses for 1990 have been revealed to the public recently by a number of design houses in Switzerland, Italy and France.



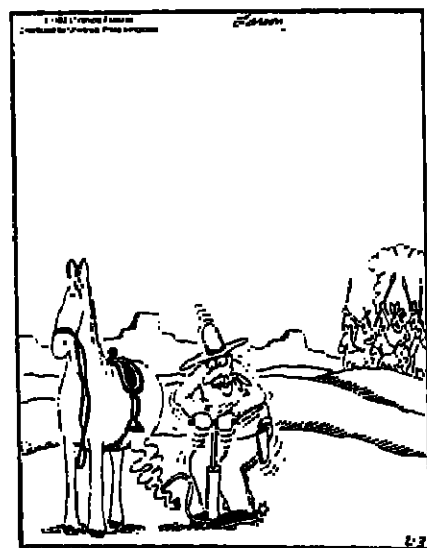
All designs stressed on the use of satin and various other applications of silk.

The Far Side

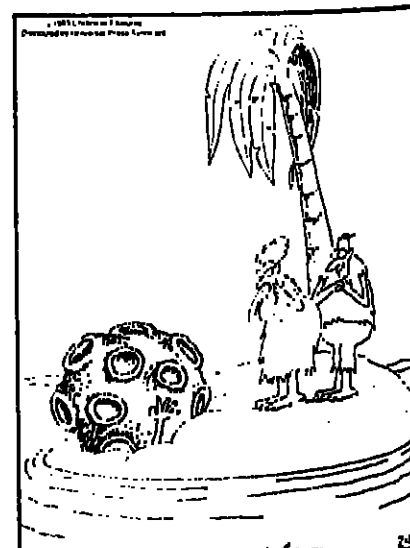
By GARY LARSON



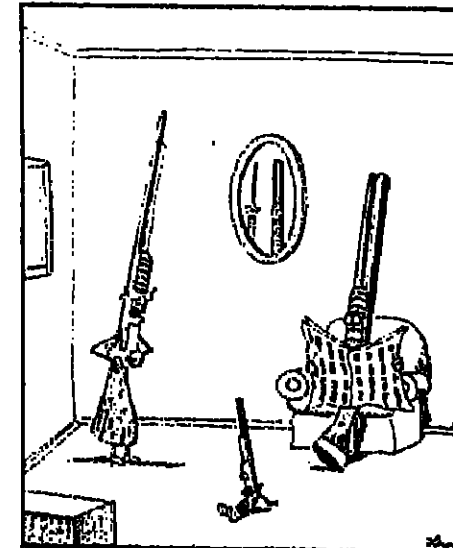
Suddenly, second-chair granite rock's jealousy of first-chair granite rock becomes uncontrollable.



The parenting advantages of dentists



With Roger out of the way, it was Sidney's big chance.



"I'm going off half-cocked? I'm going off half-cocked? ... Well, Mother was right — you can't argue with a shotgun."



Dear Halloween



To his horror, Irving suddenly realized he had failed to check his own books before putting them on just minutes ago.



Morning in the crypt

Scrapbook

Teacher, teacher, who made thee!

MIXED FEELINGS of disgust, sadness, and anger pervaded all other feelings in me when I read about the 8-year-old child who was beaten to death by his teacher in the southern Jordanian city of Shoubak last week.

The crime which cost this innocent child his life was his inability to answer a mathematical question put to him by his, obviously, frustrated and hateful teacher.

I find it impossible to believe that the teacher was so concerned with his pupil's understanding of mathematical problems that he punished him in such a brutal and inhuman manner.

I believe there is a lot of truth in concluding that the teacher was releasing the collective frustration with his profession on this helpless child who could offer no resistance.

The teacher is not only guilty of ending an innocent life but also of darkening for ever the image of schools in the minds and souls of all the pupils who witnessed the unfortunate event or even heard of it.

Almost equal in guilt is the Ministry of Education which does not provide close supervision of the educational process and possibly never looks into the attitudes of those entrusted with the delicate process of "educating" the future generations.

More than 20 years ago I used to hide behind any pretext in order not to go to school whenever I didn't or, wasn't able to, finish my homework. The only thing I could think of then was the strong and unmerciful hands of my teacher falling on every part of my fragile body.

I cannot escape picturing the mother of the "murdered" child when she received the news about her son's tragic death.

I cannot escape imagining the nightmares that haunts all the class mates of the unfortunate student. And all of a sudden, verses of William Blake's "Tiger, tiger who made thee?" with only the word tiger unconsciously replaced by the word teacher, obsessed my thoughts.

I thought that beating students was something of the past and the law banning this uncivilised act was thoroughly followed. Yet it seems we always have to pay such a terrible price before we do any thing right.

Abdullah Abu Muddein

Agenda

Exhibitions

● An art exhibit by Alla Amouira, Nabila Hilmi and Nawal Al Aballat, will be held Wednesday 7 February at Abdel Hamid Shuman Foundation. The exhibit will end 28 February.

● A photographic exhibition featuring works by Brigitte and Marc Enguerand. From 4 to 22 February at the French Cultural Centre.

Theatre

● The French Cultural Centre presents "Des Clowns" featuring gymnasts, acrobats and mimes using simple tools and basic styles of acting. Directed by Mario Gonzalez and performed by Normand Fauteux, Marc Proulx and Vincent Rouche.

Films

● The French Cultural Centre presents the feature film Le Sauvage starring Jean-Paul Rappeneau and Yves Montand. Wednesday 7 February at 8:00 pm.

Concerts

● Professor Marc Loopuyt will give a concert of udu music at the Royal Cultural Centre on Monday 5 February as part of the activities of the National Conservatory of Music. See programme on this page.

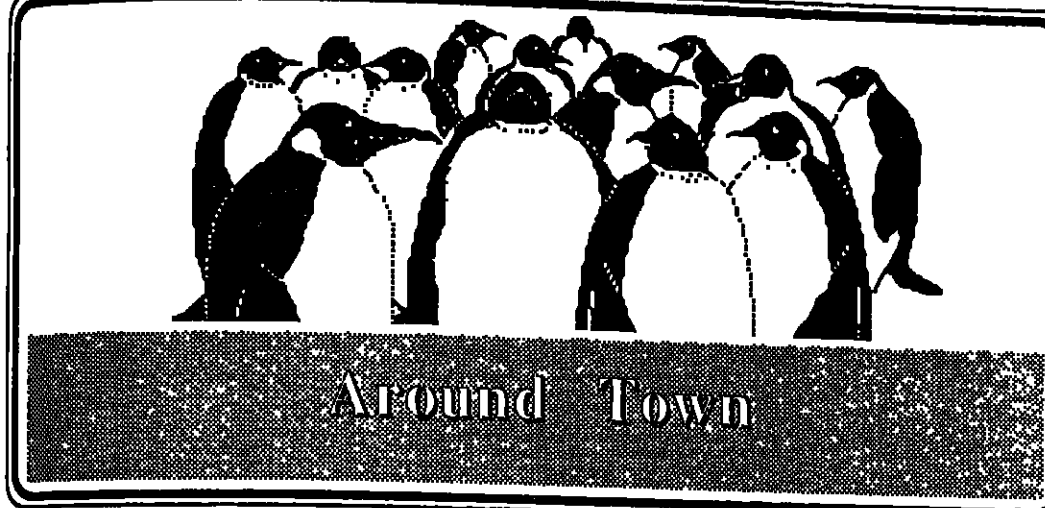
Marriott's efforts toward a greener Jordan

FOLLOWING His Majesty King Hussein's public appeal toward a greener Jordan by the year 2000, Amman Marriott hotel's management has announced its intention to be a part of this national responsibility.

The hotel staff have designated 1 February 1990 as their tree planting day when they will be planting several kinds of trees in a location to be assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture.

"It is our hope that other companies and institutions in Jordan will follow the Marriott's example and take this national responsibility seriously," says Mr. Frank Keenan, Marriott's General Manager.

Sight & Sound Centre has announced a new English-language study courses. Registration will end 3 February. In co-operation with Apple Computer Company, the Centre has set up special courses on desktop publishing and graphics software.



Around Town

First Arab Rostrum to be held in Amman

A series of Arabic concerts will mark the 12th biennial meeting of the Arab Academy of Music and the first Arab Music Rostrum (AMR), all to be held in Amman 3 - 5 February.

The AMR will be organised by the Arab Academy of Music (funded by the Arab League) and the International Music Council - UNESCO with the participation of the Arab States Broadcasting Union and the National Music Conservatory of Jordan. The aims of the Academy are to develop the teaching and diffusion of music culture, to collect and preserve Arab music publications and to foster the production and development of Arab music and singing.

Sat. 3 Feb. - The Symphony Orchestra of the Royal Jordanian Army Band with a selection of light Western classics.

Sun. 4 Feb. - "Fuheis": up and coming choir and Arabic band who recently visited Iraq, presenting traditional serious Arabic songs.

Mon. 5 Feb. - French 'Ud (ute) player Mark Loopuyt will be joined in this mainly solo recital by Jordanian lutenist and Kanoun (zither) player.

Tues. 6 Feb. - "Nagham Al Arabi" ("Arabian Melodies") of the Musicians' Association of Jordan, organisers since 1980 of lectures music ensembles and concerts in Jordan. This established group will perform Classical Arabic songs and instrumental.

Weds. 7 Feb. - Jordanian pianist and composer Patrick Lama will perform his own compositions, influenced by Arabic styles and images.



Munir Bashir

Thurs. 8 Feb. - Solo recital by renowned Iraqi lutenist Munir Bashir.

All concerts begin at 8:00 p.m., tickets JD 3 each. A single ticket for all six concerts is available at JD 14.500



This year's Marriott employee of the Year award went to front office associate Suzanne Salem, the senior Associate Award for ten years of service was given to Oriented chef Haj Anwar. Marriott's General Manager Mr Frank Keenan presented the awards.

● Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad be Zaid an art exhibition "Jordanian Artists 1990" was opened Tuesday 30 January at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The exhibition features works by Princess Wijdan Ali, Diana Shamounki, Nawal Al Abdullah, Sabahat Rashdan, Mukarram Hagbondaqa, Nabila Hilmi, Suha Shoman, Ufemia Rizk, Gada Dahdaleh, Namat Al Naser, Margaret Tadros, Larisa Najjar, Najwa Amab, Yussef Hussein, Keram Nimir, Jalal Irekat, Abdel Naser Odeh, Kamal Kabat, Fouad Mimi, Mamoun Deban, Youssef Al Badawi, Hafez Kassir, Jamal Ashour, Khalid Kreis, Abdel Raouf Shamoun and Mahmoud Taha.

The exhibition will continue until 17 February.

● The annual general meeting of the Al Hussein Society for the



Hotel Jordan InterContinental honoured its staff of 330 in a traditional New Year celebration held at the hotel Tuesday evening. General Manager Mr Majeed Khalil delivered a speech in which he thanked all employees for their great efforts throughout 1989.

The management presented gifts and awards to the staff members and singled out Mr Khader Al Ghoul as the employee of the year. Members of management traditionally served dinner to hotel staff during the celebration which also included an entertainment programme.

t.v. Guide

Programmes of Jordan Television from 3 to 9 February

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Annie McGuire: "The Ferry". Annie is bored to tears as she plays dutiful wife while Nick wins and dines a possible new business client, Bert Holmby, and his (only slightly) better half Phyllis. Annie is not happy to discover that Nick's contract negotiations have been extended.

9:00 - Spot light.

9:30 - Classical music.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Feature Film: White Mama. Starring Bette Davis, Ernest Harten. The indomitable Davis is a poor widow forced to take in a young black street thief to make ends meet. Bette's "White Mama" burles out orders, only to make an about face and to take orders when the going gets tough.

SUNDAY

8:30 - Who's The Boss: In this episode Samantha demonstrates true self-discipline... in the face of tragedy.

9:10 - Documentary: Space Flight (Episode 2) The wings of Mercury. Man's invasion of outer space: In the 50s and 60s, the Soviets took the lead with Sputnik I and then with Gagarin as first man to walk in space.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Game, Set & Match (Episode 10): Bernard Samson has just five days in Mexico City to succeed in turning KGB Major Erich Stinnes and convince London that he himself is not working for the Russians.

MONDAY

8:30 - Empty Nest: Harry Snubs Lavette: A story of pride and prejudice, that ends well.

9:10 - Kane and Abel: The conflict between Kane and Abel intensifies still further when coincidence brings together Kane's son, Richard (Byrd), and Abel's daughter, Florentyna (Ms McNeil). Having temporarily changed her name to gain work experience outside her father's domain, Florentyna meets Richard and, before they discover each other's true identity, they fall in love.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Midnight Caller.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Mr. Belvedere: Another chapter of the British butler's memoirs and experience in an American home.

9:10 - Drama: Mother Love (Part II): In this second part, events follow in rapid succession.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Hunter: Hunter and McCall tackle a fierce gang of drugs.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 The Nutt House: A Night At The Reunion: A very touchy story of reunion involving Mr Targinton... and a lesson to be learnt.

9:10 - Documentary: Animals In War: Even before Hannibal led the elephants over the Alps, animals played an enormously important role in man's battles. Animals in Warfare investigates the use of animals by men - not just as courageous couriers, but also as the frontline victims of the shocking warfare experiments used to further man's preoccupation with developing more efficient ways to kill himself.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Hemingway (Episode 1): An 8-hour television production starring Stacy Keach as Hemingway. The series is based on the blog.



First Among Equals, Friday 10:20.

replay by Carlos Baker and the script by Bernard Sikel, the series portrays the tumultuous life of the Noble Prize winning American author, who began his career in Paris as a member of the "Lost Generation" and who spent most of his adult life in Europe.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A Different World: A very cheerful and joyful party organised by three students.

9:10 - Basketball.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Movie of the week: Disaster on the Coast liner. Starring Loyde Bridges, Raymond Blaine. A former railway engineer, who's wife and children were killed in a railway disaster hijacks the express train between San Francisco and Los Angeles with 700 passengers on board. He wants to prove that the disaster was no accident.

FRIDAY

8:30 Coach: A story of eternal conflict between father and daughter, handled beautifully.

9:10 - Thriller: "First Day/Last Day" - Michael and Elliot relive their past in flashback as they go through the tortuous business of closing down their company. Beginning in 1982 when they first meet while working for a large ad agency, their relationship and eventual decision to start their own company is chronicled in many scenes throughout the episode.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - First Among Equals (Episode 6): The Tory Party would never elect a woman to lead them. But the new member of Pucklebridge takes a directly opposite view.

FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

5:30 - La Monde Est-à-vous 90: variety programme presented by Jacques Martin. Guest of honour: Charles Aznavour, Carmel and many others.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - Sauvage et beau a documentary about animals and their life.

SUNDAY

5:50 - Tel Pere Tel Filis: A comedy series. Father and son try to manage during the absence of their servant

will they manage.

6:15 - L'Ecole des fans: A programme for children by Jacques Martin. This week is dedicated for third age group.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - Aujourd'hui en France: A cultural magazine about the latest events in France daily life.

MONDAY

6:00 - Nick, Chasseur de têtes: A drama series "Eva for ever". Eva is back from New York and Nick's feelings for her are as deep as ever.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - The weekly sport magazine.

TUESDAY

5:40 - Lucifer/6 A programme for children.

6:10 - Des chiffres et des lettres a game show.

6:30 - L'appart/27 a comedy series.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie a local magazine by Saleh Madi.

WEDNESDAY

6:30 - Quand La Chine S'evillera/3: A documentary in this episode looking at the different aspects of the Chinese revolution led by the late Chinese President Mao.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - French varietes.

THURSDAY

6:00 - Tel Pere Tel Filis: A comedy series.

6:30 - La chance aux chansons: A variety programme by Pascal Sevran.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - Contact: A documentary magazine.

FRIDAY

5:00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres a game show.

5:20 - Les vagabonds de la Bastille: A telenovela of adventures four children full of curiosity about the dramatic events of July, 1789 and they join in the making of new events.

7:15 - News in French.

7:15 - Muscoba: A documentary about a certain Pierre Nicolas who is involved in teaching music in a very strange place.

7:25 - Modulations: Documentary.

Hollywood Stars speak

Brian de Palma

Success streak

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brian de Palma is a film director who defies categorising. In his early career, he seemed pegged as a maker of suspense films with more than a touch of horror: "Sisters", "Obsession", "Carrie", "Dressed to Kill", "Blow Out", "Body Double".

Then de Palma directed a pair of gangster features: "Scarface" and the smash hit, "The Untouchables", which won Sean Connery an Academy Award.

Now the director tackles the Vietnam War with a searing battle-drama starring Sean Penn and Michael J. Fox. It was a problem picture that was developed and then rejected by Paramount Pictures. Columbia Pictures' boss Dawn Steel decided to make it.

For yet another change of genre, de Palma next tackles the Tom Wolfe novel of greed and injustice in New York City, "Bonfire of the Vanities."

Q: Do directors get typed like actors?

A: Well, I thought you could learn a lot making suspense pictures. In suspense pictures you have to tell stories purely with pictures, not relying on dialogue and character as much as sort of building sequences that are emotionally suspenseful to the audience. So it's a great training ground to learn all sorts of visual grammar that you can use later in your career for other types of stories. But I became very good at it and consequently was typed as the "new Hitchcock, the master of the macabre," whatever you want to call it.

Q: Was it hard to make a break out of suspense?

A: Well, not really. All you have to do is make a very successful picture in a different genre. And I started to make kind of successful gangster pictures like "Scarface" and "The Untouchables", and those have been my most successful pictures. So I guess by the wider audience I'm known more by those pictures than my earlier suspense picture.

Q: "Scarface" kind of had mixed reactions, would you say?

A: Well, maybe because the intensity, the violence, the whole world of cocaine kingpins which I felt was very accurate at the time and which I felt was a very good script written by Oliver Stone. But at the time I think it was rather shocking. I don't think now people would be as shocked by it because it's on TV every week on "Miami Vice".

Q: There was no question about "The Untouchables". It went through the roof and got an Oscar for Sean Connery. Did it feel comfortable to you going in?

A: Well, again it had a fine script by David Mamet and a great character that Sean played and some fabulous dialogue and a classical western type of situation which hadn't been seen for quite awhile. And it gave me a chance to work on kind of an epic scale.

Q: Was the inception of "Casualties of War", "The New Yorker" piece?

A: Yes, I read it in 1969 and was impressed by the tragic and heart-rending story of what happened to a specific squad during this particularly tragic war. I felt it was like the best story about the Vietnam War. It sort of dealt in a microcosm of events that happened to the squad. You could see what the whole war was about in relationship to this little world in which the squad moved.

It was very tragic and very moving so I tried to get control of it then, but it was bought and developed by someone else. In fact I ran into Jimmy Woods at a party a couple of weeks ago and he told me he had auditioned for the character of Erickson back in 1970. So this is obviously a project that people wanted to do. But as with a lot of Vietnam movies, they sort of look like they're going to get made and then something falls apart at the ninth hour. And this happened so many years ago, decades really. And I was able to get it developed after "The Untouchables" success at Paramount.

We got David Rabe to write the script, and Art Linson, who had a long relationship with Sean Penn, got interested in it. Sean read the script and wanted to do it. I had talked to Michael J. Fox about other projects, and he knew I was developing this script. He read it and he wanted to play the part of Erickson.

Q: It's particularly adventuresome for Michael to do a part in a film like this. Did he have any misgivings? Was he eager to do it from the start?

A: Yes, he was eager to do it from the start. I thought it was very important to have Michael bring his particular audience of people that have followed him over the years in his television series, a whole generation of kids who have not had direct experience with the Vietnam war and did not grow up with it as I did. I wanted to have them see the war through his eyes, this particular aspect of the war. And Michael has a ton of inherent integrity and innocence that works very well for this particular character.

Q: Was Thailand the only possible choice to shoot "Casualties of War"?

A: We looked all over the place. We went to Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, the Philippines. I finally decided that this particular place in the world - South Thailand - was the place that looked most like Vietnam. You could just go to the east one hour in a plane and be in Saigon. I also wanted to see the great beauty of the country.

Q: What were your feelings and activities during the war?

A: I was basically a guy trying to get out of the draft. Fortunately I was drafted right in the beginning, so I got a note from a doctor that said I had asthma. Which I did but believe me, it wasn't that serious. That got me out.



Algerian	641271/2
Arab Republic of Yemen	642381
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	674750
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	642653
Czechoslovakian	665105
Denish Consulate Gen.	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	641351
German D.R.	819351/2
Greek	672331
Hungarian	674916
Indian	637262
Iraqi	639331
Italian	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Japanese	672486/7
Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwaiti	675135/8
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	675911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatar	644331/2
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	622140
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNDP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
Far East Com. off. (Taiwan)	671530
UNICEF	629371
Con. of Sri Lanka	645312

Airlines

Arab Air Cargo	674191/95
Acroflot	641510
Air France	666055/667825
Air India	675888/9
Air Lanka	655377/651799
Allitalia	625203
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Australian Airline	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
Chinese Airlines	657380
Cubey Pacific	62663
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678221
Gulf Air	633606/636616
Iberia	637827/644036
Iraqi Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kuwaiti Airlines	630144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
P.A.	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	637380/667028
Sabena Belgian Airlines	675888
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	662111
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	642943
Swiss Air	629831
Syrian Air	622147
Thai Airways	604649
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628173
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200.

Diary

Cultural centres	Cinemas
Royal Cultural Centre 661026/7	Concord 677420
American Centre Library 641520	Rainbow 625155
British Council 636147/8	Opera 675573
French Cultural Centre 637009	Plaza 674111
Goethe Institute 641993	Philadelphia 634144
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203	Nijom 675571
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777	
Haya Arts Centre 665195	
Hussein Youth City 667181/5	
Y.W.C.A. 641793	Al Hussein Sports City 667181
Y.W.M.A. 664251	Orthodox Club 810491
Amman Mun. Library 637111	Royal Automobile Club 815410
Univ. of Jordan Library 834555	Royal Shooting Club 736572
	Royal Chess Club 673713

Restaurants	Hotels
Shakhshir 668958	Amman
Al-Jabal 666669	Philadelphia 663100
Kada 665161/665153	Marriott 660100
Al-Labadi 813554	Regency 660000
National 639197/8	Jerusalem 665094
Nobo 816792	Intercontinental 641361
Petra 605501	Ambassador 665186
Rabbit Amman 672424	Commodors 665181
Al-Rimal 639861	Middle East 667150
Al-Samer 771707	Grand Palace 661121
Satelite 625767/621471	Tyche 661114
Star 604904	International 841712
Tiger 671931	San Rock 813801
Trust 673312	Alia Gateway (08) 510000
Al-Waha 674105	Amra 815071
Abu Degge 644642/644906	Plaza 674111
Amin Jarar (Avis) 670498	
Arabian 666327	Aqaba
Arman 641350	Holiday 2426
Avist-Jarar 8851000	Al-Manar 4341
Budget 604230	Al-Cazar 4131
De'ns 669970	Coral Beach 3521
Direni 666061	Aquamarina 4333
Europcar 601350/80	Aqaba 2056
General Services 674100	
Gulf 660902	

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Mexico City 5	
Morocco 212	
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Rabat 7	
Netherlands 31	

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Tel 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Sulle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephrem Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 827981

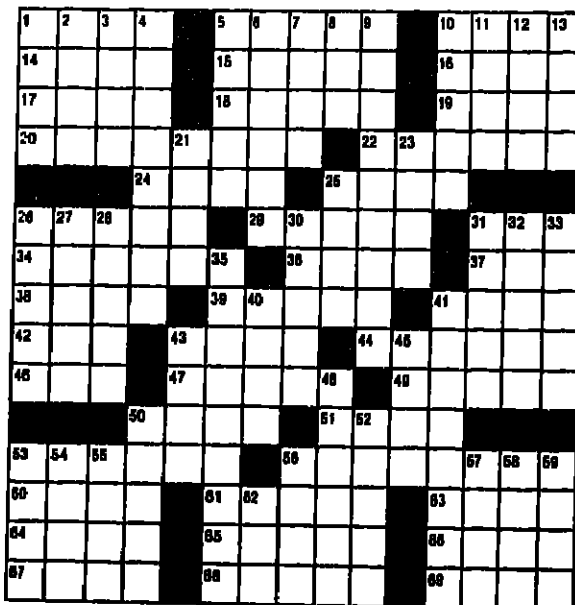
Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq Tel. 811295.

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Majorca 71	
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Colombo 1	
Sudan 249	
Khartoum 11	
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Stockholm 8	
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Damascus 11	
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Tunis 1	
Turkey 90	
Ankara 41	
Istanbul 1	
UAE 971	
Abu Dhabi 2	
Al Ain 3	
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Fujairah 70	
Ras al Khaimah 77	
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USSR 7	
Moscow 095	
Venezuela 58	
Caracas 2	
Yugoslavia 38	

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

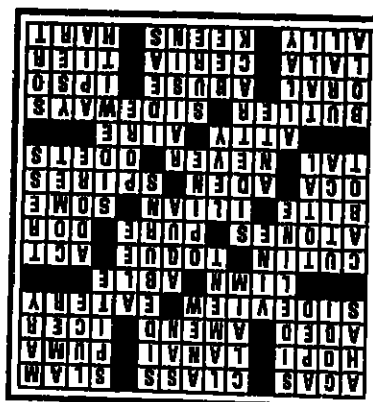
- 1 Turk. lilies
- 5 Style
- 14 Pueblo tribe
- 15 Oahu porch
- 16 Big cat
- 17 Rattled
- 18 Improve
- 19 Bakery worker
- 20 Profile
- 22 Diner
- 24 Describe
- 25 Skilled
- 26 Interrupt
- 31 Brimless hat
- 32 Behave
- 34 Dose penance
- 35 Shaer
- 37 "Le Coq —"
- 38 Nibble
- 39 Of ancient
- 41 "— Like It Hot"
- 42 Edible tuber
- 43 Yemon city
- 44 Tapered structures
- 46 Ruas. chess master
- 47 Turnedown
- 49 Playwright
- 50 Lawyer: abbr.
- 51 Eng. river
- 53 The — did it!
- 56 Obliquely
- 58 Spoken
- 61 Treat badly
- 63 — facto
- 64 Tra —
- 65 Pottery ingredient
- 66 Row of seats
- 67 Friend
- 68 Waits
- 69 Deer



DOWN

- 1 Triumph
- 2 Arid section
- 3 Imitated
- 4 Secondary job
- 5 Title
- 6 Bemoan
- 7 Over
- 8 — Mateo
- 9 Muttonchops
- 10 Malice
- 11 Claret
- 12 Booths —
- 13 USA word: abbr.
- 14 Peter, Paul and —
- 15 Climber
- 16 On the safe side
- 17 Blush green
- 18 Henry —
- 19 Lodge
- 20 NY city
- 21 Entirely
- 22 Think
- 23 Revere
- 24 Halley's —
- 25 Look of hair
- 26 Divert
- 27 Assess
- 28 Take one's part
- 29 Poker money
- 30 Opening
- 31 Dried grape
- 32 Calm fears
- 33 Concepts
- 34 Gaucho's weapon
- 35 Russ. river
- 36 Lanky
- 37 Certain
- 38 Samoan
- 39 Belg. river
- 40 Typo
- 41 Quitting —

Solution



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Sports Hall of Shame

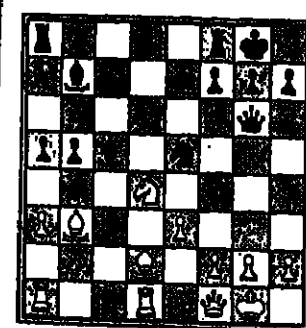
by Nash & Zullo



U.S. PRO GOLFER KENT KLUBA AND RAPHAEL ALARCON OF MEXICO GOT LOST AT THE 1985 FRENCH OPEN.

PLAYING ALONE WITHOUT A GALLERY, THE PAIR TEED OFF ON THE THIRD HOLE...OR SO THEY THOUGHT. AS THEY REACHED THE GREEN, THEY DISCOVERED THEY WERE PLAYING THE 13TH HOLE! PENALTY: TWO STROKES AND ENDLESS RIBBING.

Chess



Meduna v Nogueiras, Cuba 1984. Black (to move) has a dominant position. Queen, two bishops and knight all menace the white king while White's queen is limited to passive defence. It's a classic formation for a winning attack: how did Black force a quick surrender?

Chess solution

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